

## CONSTITUENT STRUCTURE OF THE URDU PRONOMINAL PHRASES

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**Abstract** *The paper discusses an analysis of the constituent structure of Urdu pronominal phrases using the X-bar structure of the Minimalist program. It highlights two main elements: DP (Determiner Phrase) and pronominal clitics. Both elements are considered lexical items that undergo checking and merger operations to resolve the unvalued case-feature of the pronominal clitics and create a new category, specifically a noun phrase, after the merger. The study also notes that Urdu is a head-final language, meaning that complements precede heads in the sentence. In this case, the DPs (pronouns) function as complements, while the clitics act as heads. When the clitics combine with the pronouns, they form noun phrases. Additionally, the distribution of these clitics is discussed, emphasizing their complementary distribution with pronominal inflections and the focus particle/clitic "hi." This distribution suggests that these clitics behave syntactically as pronominal clitics, which serve to mark cases and assign theta-roles.*

### 1. Introduction

The Urdu pronouns plus pronominal clitics make phrases. This paper will investigate the hierarchical organization of the constituents formed by the Urdu pronominal forms plus pronominal clitics. The X-bar theory of generative grammar is the most popular theory that deals with the constituent structure of the sentences. The constituent structure will be analysed in the light of the of X-bar syntax. "Constituent structure provides the roadmap that determines which words can be combined with which other words" (Carnie, 2010, PP. 3), leading to the understanding of the syntactic behaviour of the words. Accordingly, this paper is an attempt to explain in the light of X-bar syntax the syntactic behaviour of the Urdu pronominal clitics to form pronominal phrases.

### 1.1 Urdu Pronominal Constituents

The Urdu DP (determiner phrase) combines with a clitic and makes a NP. Some of the Urdu pronominal phrases are given below in the tables (1) to (2).

Table 1: The Urdu pronominal phrases with dative case

| Person               | Singular                         | Plural                     |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>      | mudʒ <sup>h</sup> =ko<br>you=DAT | həm=ko<br>We=DAT           |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>      | tʊm=ko<br>you=DAT                | tʊm=ko<br>you=DAT          |
|                      | tʊdʒ <sup>h</sup> =ko<br>you=DAT |                            |
| (hon SG/PL)          | ap=ko<br>you=DAT                 | ap=ko<br>you=DAT           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prox | is=ko<br>He=DAT                  | m=ko/ mhõ=ko<br>They==DAT  |
| Rem                  | ʊs=ko<br>He=DAT                  | ʊn=ko/ unhõ=ko<br>They=DAT |

Table 1: The Urdu pronominal phrases with genitive case

| The base / ka/ke/ ki / and Pronominal |                         |                               |                         |                         |                                  |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Person                                | Singular                |                               |                         | Plural                  |                                  |                         |
| (hon SG/PL)                           | ap=ka<br>ap=ki<br>ap=ke | You=GEN<br>You=GEN<br>You=GEN | آپ کا<br>آپ کی<br>آپ کے | ap=ka<br>ap=ki<br>ap=ke | You=GEN<br>You=GEN<br>You=GEN    | آپ کا<br>آپ کی<br>آپ کے |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prox                  | is=ka<br>is=ki<br>is=ke | He=GEN<br>He=GEN<br>He=GEN    | اس کا<br>اس کی<br>اس کے | m=ka<br>m=ki<br>m=ke    | They=GEN<br>They=GEN<br>They=GEN | ان کا<br>ان کی<br>ان کے |
| Rem                                   | ʊs=ka<br>ʊs=ki<br>ʊs=ke | He=GEN<br>He=GEN<br>He=GEN    | اس کا<br>اس کی<br>اس کے | ʊnka<br>ʊnki<br>ʊnke    | They=GEN<br>They=GEN<br>They=GEN | ان کا<br>ان کی<br>ان کے |

### 1.2 Do the Urdu Pronouns and Clitics Make Constituents?

The application of different tests to the NPs shows that they are constituents.

- (i) They are constituents because they have an internal semantic coherence.

- 1) a. [ʊs=ne] əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
He.3.SG.OBL=ERG officer.3.SG.NOM=DAT bribery give.PERF.SG  
He gave the officer a bribe.
- b. [həm=ne] əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
We.1.PL.NOM=ERG officer.3.SG.NOM=DAT bribery give.PERF.SG  
We gave the officer a bribe.
- In (1a) *ʊs=ne* has a semantic cohesion but *ʊs=ne əfsər* has not a semantic cohesion. Similarly, in (1b) *həm=ne* has a semantic cohesion and *həm=ne əfsər* has not the semantic cohesion.

(ii) The application of the constituent (replacement/substitution) test establishes the fact that they are syntactic constituents.

- 2) a. Speaker A: ye rɪʃvət̪ kɪs=ne ɖi hæ  
This bribery who=ERG give.PERFSG be.3PRESSG  
Who has given this bribe?
- b. Speaker B: ʊs=ne  
He.3SGOBL=ERG  
\* ʊs  
He.3SGOBL
- 3) a. ʊs=ne ab<sup>hi</sup> skul dʒana hæ  
he.3SGOBL=ERG yet school go be  
He has yet to go to school.
- b. ʊse ab<sup>hi</sup> skul dʒana hæ  
he.3SGOBL-E yet school go be  
He has yet to go to school.
- \*c. ʊs ab<sup>hi</sup> skul dʒana hæ  
he.3SGOBL yet school go be  
He has yet to go to school.

(iii) Ellipsis test also shows that the Urdu pronouns and clitics make a constituent.

- 4) a. [ʊs=ne] əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
[He.3SGOBL=ERG] officer.3SGNOM=DAT bribery give.PERFSG  
He gave the officer a bribe.
- b. əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
officer.3SGNOM=DAT bribery give.PERFSG  
(He) gave the officer a bribe.
- \*c. ne əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi

(iv) The application of the movement test also proves that they are constituents.

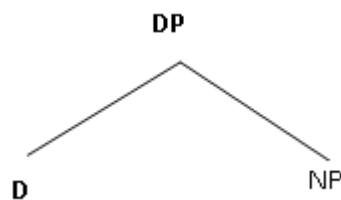
- 5) a. [ʊs=ne] əfsər=ko rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
[He.3SGOBL=ERG] officer.3SGNOM=DAT bribery give.PERFSG  
He gave the officer a bribe.
- b. əfsər=ko [ʊs=ne] rɪʃvət̪ ɖi  
officer.3SGNOM=DAT [He.3SGOBL=ERG] bribery give.PERFSG

He gave the officer a bribe.

## 2. The Constituent Structure of the Urdu Pronominal Phrases

The assumption of the earlier work was that only lexical categories/content words can project. But the generative grammar during the last twenty years has promoted the view that functional categories/function words can also project. There are not only VPs, NPs etc. but also IPs and DPs etc. All word-level categories can project into phrases (Radford, 2004). So, in accordance with the Minimalist Program which is being used as a Framework for the present work, the noun phrases are in fact the determiner phrases. It has the following structure shown in tree diagram (4).

Figure 1:



The Urdu pronominal clitics are the functional morphemes which have their own projection and are the sister of the DP. These constituents are made of DPs and clitics. Their constituent structure can be given as in figure (2) given below.

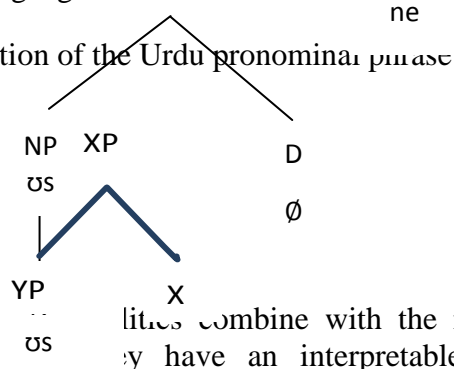
Figure 2:



### 2.1 Linearisation in the Urdu Language

When a head X in the Urdu language combines with a complement YP to satisfy its selection feature, the head is to the right of the complement. Consequently, we find the ensuing linearisation of the head-complement structure in the Urdu language.

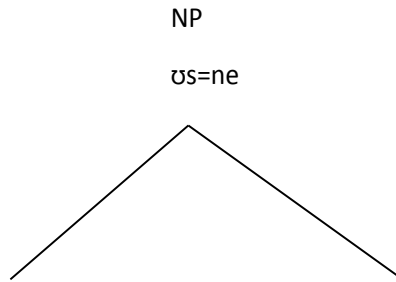
Figure 3: The Linearisation of the Urdu pronominal phrase



The Urdu pronominal clitics combine with the nominative and oblique forms of the pronoun. They have an interpretable case feature and an

uninterpretable noun feature as a c-selectional feature (subcategorization feature or subcat feature) and they merge with pronouns to make pronominal phrases (Fig. 4)

Figure 4:



In the above tree diagram (Fig.4), the clitic *ne* is the head and the DP *us* is the complement. In generative grammar, the term complement has a broader meaning, referring to an expression that combines with a head to become a larger constituent of essentially the same kind. For example, in *read a book*, *a book* is the complement of the verb *read*; in *at the end*, *the end* is the complement of the preposition *at*; in *bags of groceries*, *of groceries* is the complement of the noun *bags*. In English, complements usually follow their heads, but in Urdu, the complements precede the heads. In the Table (3), *se* is the head and comes left to the complements (the pronouns).

Table 3: *Se* and its complements

| PERSON                      | SINGULAR                       | PLURAL          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>             | mudʒ <sup>h</sup> =se          | həm=se          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> (SG)        | ʔom=se                         | ʔom=se          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> (hon SG/PL) | ʔudʒ <sup>h</sup> =se<br>ap=se | ʔom=se<br>ap=se |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prox        | is=se                          | in=se           |
| Rem                         | ʊs=se                          | ʊn=se           |

## 2.2 Head-Complement Structure in Urdu

It is one of the properties of the lexical items that they have to merge with other lexical items or syntactic objects to check their features. Lexical items cannot stand alone as syntactic objects. Likewise, Urdu pronominal clitics need syntactic objects to form well-formed syntactic structures.

- 6) a. mǎ̃=ne      k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>aya hæ  
I.1SGNOM=ERG      meal eat be  
I have had meal
- \*b. nay      k<sup>h</sup>ana k<sup>h</sup>aya ha  
ERG meal eat be

have had meal.

Urdu pronominal clitic *ne* cannot stand alone in (6b) and the structure it makes in (6b) is ill-formed. It needs another syntactic object to check the features. In (6a) the pronoun *mā̃* combines with the pronominal clitic *ne*. Similarly, all the pronominal clitics merge with the pronouns. Thus, Urdu pronominal phrases come into existence as a result of a constituent building operation called Merge. Two syntactic objects, a pronoun and a clitic, merge and make a pronominal syntactic object.

When Merger operation applies to two syntactic items, one of them bears c-selectional features. To check this feature another syntactic operation is applied. This operation is known as Checking. This Feature-Checking operation applies to the roots of the tree. The features of one syntactic object are compared with the features of another syntactic object. “Checking and Merge, then, always apply at the root, so that syntactic derivations are extended by the application of operations to the root projection of the tree” (Adger, 2003, p.175). This, as a general constraint, can be stated thus: “The Extension Condition: A syntactic derivation can only be continued by applying operations to the root of the tree” (Adger, 2003, p.175).

The kind of structure that comes into existence as a result of the Merger of Urdu pronouns and pronominal clitics is head-complement structure. Urdu, unlike English, is a language that takes the complement to the left of the head. For example, it takes the direct object and indirect object (complements of the verb) to the left of the verb.

- 7) a. *us=ne kiṭab əsləm=ko di hæ*  
He has given the book to Aslam.

*kitab* and *Aslam=ko*, the complements of the ditransitive verb *di* in (7a) occupy the positions that are to the left of the head.

- b. *mā̃=ne kḥana kḥa liya hæ*  
I have eaten the meal.

The subject in (7b) that is the complement is to the left of the head *hæ*.

- c. *Hamid=ki kiṭab*  
Hamid’s book

*Kitab* in (7c) is the head and *Hamid=ki* is the complement and it is to the left of the *Kitab*.

### 2.3 The Status of the Nodes and the Urdu Pronominal Phrases

The pronouns in the pronominal phrases have no selectional features to be checked and thus, make a maximal projection. They are also a lexical category and thus make a minimal projection too. Thus, the features of a node decide its phrasal status. If a node has no c-selectional features then it is maximal and makes a phrase. The pronouns do not have c-selectional features, they are, therefore,

maximal and make a phrase. The pronominal clitics have uninterpretable noun c-features to be checked, so they do not make maximal projections and have no phrasal status, and because they make a lexical category, they make minimal projections. The pronominal phrases like *us=ne* are maximal because they have no c-selectional features and they are not minimal because they are not lexical items. The ensuing table gives a summary of the preceding facts.

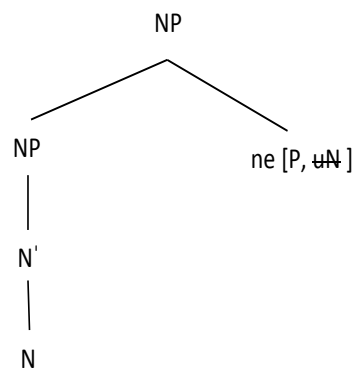
Table 4: The status of nodes in *us=ne*

| Node         | Minimal | Maximal | Comments  |
|--------------|---------|---------|---|
| <i>us</i>    | Yes     | Yes     | It is a lexical item that has no selectional features.                    |
| <i>Ne</i>    | Yes     | No      | It is a lexical item that has selectional features to be checked          |
| <i>us=ne</i> | No      | Yes     | It is neither a lexical category nor has selection features to be checked |

“Only maximal projections/phrases can be sisters of the c-selecting heads. If a non-maximal projection is Merged, its unchecked c-selectional features will be ‘trapped’, leading to ungrammaticality (since all uninterpretable features must be checked)” (Adger, 2003, p. 84).

The complement that merges with the Urdu pronominal clitic has a phrasal status. The following picture comes before us in (Fig.5):

Figure 5: The Urdu pronominal clitic and its complement



We have three levels of projection for the NP. First we have the lexical item, pronoun, which is a minimal projection written as  $X^{\min}$  or  $N^{\min}$ . It is not really a projection of anything  $us [N]$  imply the lexical item (Adger, 2003). The second level of projection is the intermediate projection called the bar-level projection and it is written as  $X'$  or  $N'$ . The intermediate projection is not a lexical item. The third level is the maximal level which is written as  $X^{\max}$  or  $N^{\max}$  .....





- b. vo us=ko rozana mil̥ta hæ  
he. he.OBJ.3.SG.OBL=ACC daily meet be  
He meets him daily.
- c. vo us=ko xəṭ̥ lik̥ṭa hæ  
he. he.INDIROBJ.3.SG.OBL=DAT letter write be

In (8a), the DP *us=ne* is a subject, in (8b) the DP *us=ko* is a direct object and in (8c) the DP *us=ko* is an oblique object. This distribution shows that it is the distribution of NPs and DPs and the pronouns in these phrases determine the distribution. The head of a constituent determines the distribution of the constituent. Its distribution is the distribution of the whole constituent.

The head is the most characteristic of the constituent. The features of the head are projected by the whole phrase. In syntax, features combine and make lexical items and the lexical items are considered the bundles of features. These lexical items combine into phrases on the basis of their selectional properties. The features of one of the constituting lexical items project through the phrase and thus, a phrase has the properties of that lexical item. In Urdu the DPs combine with pronominal clitics and make NPs. The DPs are the complements in the clitic phrases which are also the heads. Urdu is an OV language and takes modifiers and complements to the left of the head.

- 9) us=ne kəha  
he.3SGOBL=ERG say.PERFSG  
He said.

In (9) *us=ne* is a constituent that comprises two words, *us* and *ne*. The word *us* is a pronominal word and *ne* is a pronominal clitic that establishes the relationship between *us* (pronoun) and *kəha* (verb), theta-marks the agent role and encodes the grammatical relations of subject. This constitution (*us=ne*) has the distribution of a NP. It seems that *us* is the most important word and it also seems the most characteristic of the constituent because it is a noun and the whole constituent seems to project its features. The clitic *ne* combines with the pronoun and is a part of the NP and does not make a different phrase. So, in fact the phrase *us=ne* is the projection of the pronominal clitic.

The head of a constituent refers to a real world object (Adger, 2003).

Table 6: The pronominal phrases

| Person               | Singular                          | Plural             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup>      | moḍʒ <sup>h</sup> =pər<br>I=LOC   | həm=pər<br>We=LOC  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> (SG) | tʊḍʒ <sup>h</sup> =pər<br>You=LOC | tʊm=pər<br>You=LOC |
| (hon SG/PL)          | ap=pər<br>You=LOC                 | ap=pər<br>You=LOC  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> prox | is=pər                            | in=pər             |

|     |                  |   |
|-----|------------------|---|
|     | He=LOC           | They=LOC<br>in <sup>h</sup> ō=pər<br>They=LOC           |
| Rem | us=pər<br>He=LOC | un=pər<br>They=LOC<br>un <sup>h</sup> ō=pər<br>They=LOC |

In Table (6), all the pronouns pick out real world objects and the clitic *pər* (locative case-marker) establishes the relationship between the real world objects and the verb. This reason also suggests that pronouns are the heads of the DPs.

But the following more theoretical reasons prove that clitics are the heads in the Urdu pronominal phrases.

Urdu is an OV language and takes complement to the left of the head. Pronominal words come to the left of the clitics. So linearization of the Urdu language suggests that pronominal words plus clitics merge and form phrases in which clitics are the heads and pronouns are the complements. Ignoring the category of the clitics for the time being, we have the structure expressed by the tree diagram (6)

Figure 6: The structure of the pronominal clitic phrase

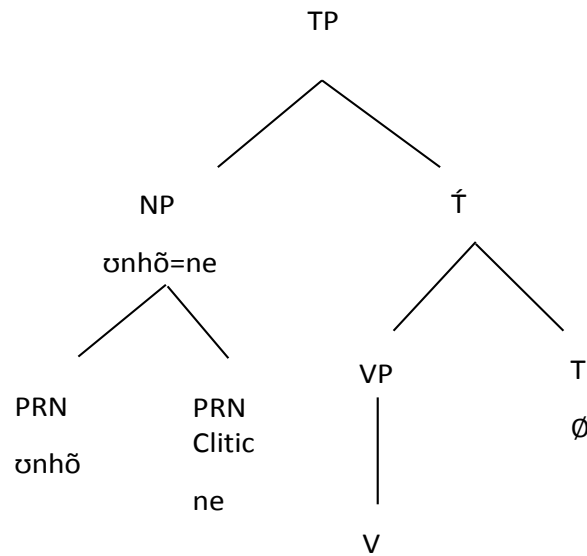
Pronominal Clitic  
Phrase

us=ko

The head of a constituent determines the effect that it has on agreement relations. When Urdu pronominal words are followed by clitics, they don't agree with T because syntactic structure is built on clitics and once a phrase has been produced it goes to the complement component. In other words, Phase Impenetrability Condition applies to it. Phase Impenetrability Condition is "a constraint on grammatical operations which specifies that the domain/complement of a phase head is impenetrable/ inaccessible to an external probe (i.e. to a probe which lies outside the relevant phase)" (Radford, 2004, p.469). Thus the agreement between pronouns and verbs is blocked.

- 10) un<sup>h</sup>ō=ne                                      kəha  
       they.3PLOBL=ERG                      say  
       They said.

Figure 7:

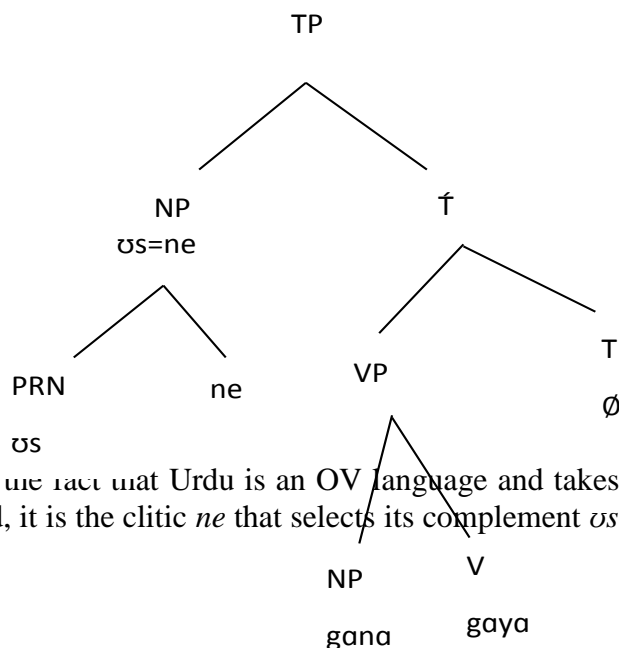


Clitic *ne* like an adposition/preposition in English creates a barrier and does not allow the DP *us* to agree with other elements. It blocks the agreement. This fact shows that the clitics have effect on agreement relations and the elements that have effect on agreement relations are considered heads of the constituents. Thus, this argument supports the view that clitics are the heads of these phrases.

Moreover, “the head is the syntactic object which selects in any Merge operation” (Adger, 2003, p.71; Citko, 2014, p.12). The two syntactic objects *us* and *ne* merge in (11) and make a new syntactic object *us=ne*.

- 11) *us=ne*                      *gana*    *gaya*  
       he.1.SG.OBL=ERG    song    sing  
       He sang (a) song.

Figure 8:



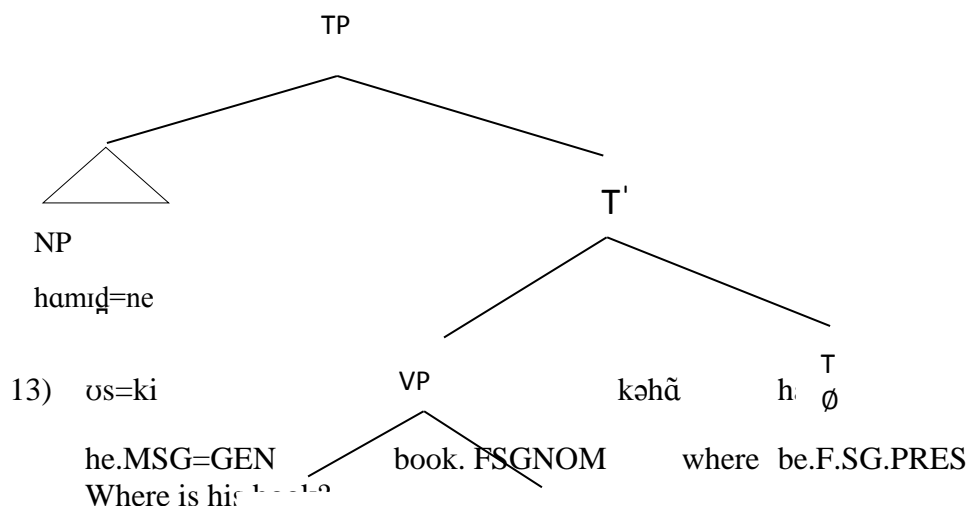
In view of the fact that Urdu is an OV language and takes complements to the left of the head, it is the clitic *ne* that selects its complement *us*. This fact shows

that the clitics are the heads. Thus, this theoretical argument verifies that clitics are the heads.

- 12) hamid=ne                      meri                      kitāb                      umar=ko  
 hamid.3SGNOM=ERG   my.FSG                      book.F.SG.NOM   umarMSG=DAT  
 di  
 give.F  
 Hamid gave my book to Umar.

In (12) the phrase, *hamid=ne*, one of the arguments, is a subject and sister of the T'. It occupies the left position to the head (*di*). The constituent, *meri kitāb* (= my book), direct object, is a complement of the verb and is also to the left of its head, *di*, a verb. Moreover, in the phrase, *meri kitāb*, *meri* is a modifier which comes to the left of the head, *kitāb*. The phrase, *hamid=ne*, is a noun phrase in which *ne* is a pronominal clitic and *hamid* is a complement of the clitic *ne*.

Figure 9:



In (13) the Adjp unit *us=ki* is a genitive DP which is consisted of two NPs. The projection is a genitive DP in which *us* is a pronoun and *ki* is a clitic and both make a pronominal phrase. This genitive pronominal phrase is a modifier of the noun *kitāb* in the projection *us=ki kitāb*. It comes to the head in the phrase.

In similar expressions are, in fact, noun phrases in which pronouns are heads and complements and clitics are the head. Their structure is in accordance with the Head final parameter of the Urdu language.

Further, the DP *umar=ko* is the item that selects" (Adger, 2003, p.72). The clitics *ko* complement the verb *di* in the merger operation and thus, also select the head in the pronominal plus clitic expressions.

Now the question is that these phrases have the distribution of the noun phrases. Then, why don't they have a different distribution? The reason is that these clitics are the pronominal clitics. They don't make a different category. They are part of the pronouns. They have a complementary distribution with the inflections and are like phrasal affixes and syntactic inflections. They mark cases, encode grammatical relations and assign  $\theta$ -roles. That's why the distribution is that of the Urdu noun phrases. And that's why the present work names them pronominal clitics.

- 14) a.  $\text{us=se}$                        $\text{putfo.}$   
            $\text{he.3SGOBL=ABL}$      $\text{ask.SGVOC}$   
           Ask him.
- b.  $\text{use}$                                $\text{putfo.}$   
            $\text{he.3SGOBL}$                        $\text{ask.SGVOC}$   
           Ask him.
- c.  $\text{kıtab}$                                $\text{on=ko}$                        $\text{đo}$   
            $\text{book.3SGNOM}$                        $\text{they.3PLOBL=DAT}$      $\text{give.VOC}$   
           Give them (a/the) book.
- d.  $\text{kıtab}$                                $\text{unhē}$                        $\text{đo}$   
            $\text{book.3SGNOM}$                        $\text{they.3PLOBL}$                        $\text{give.VOC}$   
           Give them (a/the) book.

In sentences (14a-d), the pronominal clitics have complementary distribution with the inflections of the pronouns. These inflections perform the same functions as are performed by clitics.

The above-mentioned arguments establish the fact the clitic like *ne*, *mē*, *par*, and *ṭak* etc., are pronominal clitics. They make the noun phrases and are the head of these NPs.

## 2.5 Distribution of the Urdu Pronominal Clitics

They can occur as a head of a NP.

- 15) a.  $\text{həm=ko}$                                $\text{səmose}$                        $\text{pəsənd}$                        $\text{hā}$   
            $\text{we.3SGNOM=DAT}$      $\text{somasā}$                        $\text{like}$                        $\text{be}$   
           We like somasas.
- b.  $\text{mudʒʰ=se}$                        $\text{əsi}$                        $\text{đəvai}$                        $\text{kʰai}$                        $\text{nəhī}$                        $\text{đʒaṭi}$   
            $\text{I.1SGOBL=ABL}$      $\text{such}$                        $\text{medicine}$                        $\text{eat}$                        $\text{not}$                        $\text{go}$   
           I can't take such medicine. (Schmidt, 2005, p.74)

They may occur to the right of a particle *hi* (a focus clitic) plus DP.

- 16)  $\text{ap=hi=ne}$                                $\text{kəha}$                        $\text{θa}$   
            $\text{you.2OBL= FOC PRT =ERG}$      $\text{say}$                        $\text{be}$   
           It was you who said.

It can occur between the DP and the particles *hi* and *to*.

- 17) a.  $\text{tu}=\text{ne}=\text{hi}$  meri məḍḍəḍ ki  
you.2SGOBL=ERG= FOC PRT my help do  
You are the one who helped me. (Schmidt, 2005, p.212)  
It is you who helped me.
- b.  $\text{mā}=\text{ne}=\text{hi}$  ye kam kīya  
I.1SGNOM=ERG= FOC PRT this work do  
It is I who did this work
- c.  $\text{ap}=\text{ne}$   $\text{to}$  ye nəhī kəha θa  
you.2OBL=ERG EMPH PRT this not say be  
It was you who did not say that.

But the pronominal clitics do not precede the particle *to* in a phrase.

- 18) a.  $\text{ap}=\text{ki}$   $\text{to}$  məḍzē hā  
you.2NOM=ERG EMPH PRT joy be  
You are greatly enjoying yourself.
- \*b. Ap to ki maujen hain  
you. 2NOM EMPH PRT ERG joy be

It can come between the two particles *hi* and *to*.

- 19)  $\text{ap}=\text{hi}=\text{ne}=\text{to}$  kəha θa  
you.2.OBL= FOC PRT=ERG= EMPH PRT say be  
It was you who said.

The above sentences (15-19) show that the clitics can change their place with the particle *hi* and they can proceed and follow this particle (*hi*), but they do not follow the particle *to*. They only precede the particle *to*. This points out the fact that *to* and the Urdu pronominal clitics do not occupy the same slot but they have complementary distribution with the particle *hi* which is also categorized as focus clitic by Butt & King (2004). The particles *hi* and *to* do not effect agreement relations. This indicates that the syntactic behaviour of the Urdu pronominal clitics is different from that of these particles.

- 20) vo hi  $\text{to}$  ga rəha hæ  
he.3.M.SG.NOM FOC PRT EMPH PRT sing live.SG.M  
be.3.SG.PRS

It is he who is singing.

In (20), the nominative subject agrees in number, gender person and case with the lexical verb and T (tense-marking particle)

**Conclusion** This study has made an analysis of the constituent structure of the Urdu pronominal phrases in accordance with X-bar structure of the Minimalist programme. In (1), the structure of the Urdu pronominal phrase has been discussed. It has two constituting elements: DP and pronominal clitics. Both of these formatives are lexical items that participate in checking and merger operations to check the unvalued case-feature of the pronominal clitics and make a new category (noun phrase) after the merger. According to the linearization of the

Urdu language, it is a head-final language. The complements come first and the heads follow. It takes complements to the left and heads to the right. The DPs (the pronouns) are the complements and the clitics are the heads. The clitics are the pronominal formatives and they make noun phrases when they combine with the pronouns. Further, the distribution of these clitics show that they have complementary distribution with the pronominal inflections and the focus particle or clitic *hi*. Their distribution establishes the fact that they syntactically behave like pronominal clitics that mark cases and assign theta-roles.

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