

Northern Kurdish

— annotation notes —

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Annotation notes

Transitive and intransitive verbs: verbs of speech

Transitive and intransitive verbs can be distinguished on morphological grounds: transitive verbs trigger the ergative construction in the past tenses, while intransitives do not. In general, this was taken as the main diagnostic for distinguishing transitive and intransitive predicates, with one main exception: verbs of speech, in particularly *gotin* ‘say’. Morphologically, it definitely belongs in the class of transitive verbs. However, it is very rarely used with a nominal object; rather, it generally introduces direct speech, which may continue for several clauses (and hence is difficult to classify as an ‘object’). Given the massive frequency of this verb, we have decided to treat it as intransitive, but have glossed all forms with <ds_v:pred>, indicating that the verb concerned is a verb of speech. Likewise, the subjects of this verb have been glossed as <s_ds>, indicating that they are treated as a special case of intransitive subjects (S). When interpreting the data, analysts may choose to include these subjects in the S-category, or in the A-category, or treat them as a special case, or ignore them entirely.

- (1) *qîzikê gotîye: # perê min pir e*
 girl said # money.of mine much is
 np.h_ds ds_v:pred #ds np:s rn_pro.1:poss other:pred cop
 ‘The girl said: I have plenty of money ...’

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Light verb constructions

Northern Kurdish makes extensive use of light verb constructions: some non-verbal element is combined with one of a small number of so-called light verbs, most commonly *do, be, give, strike, bring*, to create a new predicate. Many of these can conveniently be treated as simple predicates, and in some cases they are orthographically treated as one word. In other cases the borderline to other combinations of generic object plus verb is difficult to draw. For highly frequent combinations, particularly if the non-verbal element does not occur outside of the particular combination, we have glossed the non-verb combination with <lvc>, sometimes with an additional form gloss:

- (2) *em ê ji xwe ra xwedî 0 kin*
 we will for ourselves POP raising 0_her do
 pro.1:a aux adp refl_pro.1:obl pop_adp np:lvc 0.h:p v:pred
 ‘We will raise (her) for ourselves’

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Adpositions

Northern Kurdish has quite a number of circumpositions consisting of a preposition plus a postpositional clitic particle. The latter is glossed <pop_adp>, see (2) for an example.

The verb *anîn* ‘bring’

In this dialect, the verb *anîn* ‘bring’ is most commonly used in combination with another verb, most oftenly *come*. In order to express *bring, fetch*, we find *tîne tê* ‘(lit.) brings comes’. To avoid inflating the number of clauses, we have treated this combination as a lexicalized one, thus analysing such expressions as a single clause, and glossed the form of *anîn* with <vother>.

- (3) 0 *baş* *e* # 0 0 *tînîn* *tên*
 0_it good is # 0_they 0_it bringing come
 0:s other:pred cop # 0.h:a 0:p **vother** v:pred

hundurê malê
 to.inside.of house
 adp np:g

‘(they say), It’s fine; (they) bring (it) into the house’

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List of corpus-specific GRAID symbols

- <redupl> second part of a partial reduplication, a stylistic figure used for emphasis etc.
- <rep> clause units that is a verbatim repetition of a preceding clause unit
- <excl> exclamations
- <pop> postpositional particle, co-occurs with a preposition (see (2) above)
- <dem> demonstrative pronoun
- <inter_pro> interrogative pronoun
- <_ds> added to function glosses <s> and <a> to indicate ‘...of a verb of speech’
- <_ds> added to form gloss <v> to indicate ‘verb of speaking’
- <pn_np> proper name