

چهند ياسايه‌كى بنجى

دارپشتنى رسته له زمانى كوردیدا

د. وریا عومەر ئەمین

له‌ئێهه‌ن
١٩٧٦



Some Fundamental Rules of
Kurdish Syntax Structure



Some Fundamental Rules of
Kurdish Syntax Structure

Prof. Dr. Waria Omar Amin

London
1976



Copyright © 2016 by Tafseer office

All rights reserved. Not part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage without a permission in writing from the writer or publisher.

Book size
21cm X 14.5#

Design
Ameen Mukhles Youns

First Edition 1976
Second Edition 2016
Qty: 500

Published by Tafseer Office
Iraq - Erbil - Mahkama St.
Tafseeroffice@yahoo.com
+9647508180866

له بهرێوه به رایه تیی گشتیی کتێبخانه گشتییەکان / هەرێمی کوردستان ژماره ی سپاردن ۳۹۴ سالی ۲۰۱۶ ی پێدراوه

Contents

Preface	6
Key to Kurdish Phonemic Symbols	7
Consonants	7
Vowels.....	8
Abbreviation	9
Introduction	10
Chapter one	
Kurdish Phrase Structure rules	13
Chapter Two	
The Rules of Noun Prase construction.....	17
Chapter Three	
The Structure of the Verb Phrase.....	37
Chapter Four	
Complex Sentence.....	50
Chapter Five	
Personal Pronouns Functions	60
References.....	75

پروونکردنه وه بۆ چاپی دووهم

ئەم کتیبە کە بە ناویشانی (چەند یاسایکی بنجی داپشتنی رسته له زمانی کوردیدا) یە له ساڵی ۱۹۷۶دا له لهندن بۆلاکراوه تەو. یە کەم کارە کە زمانی کوردی له پووی تیۆرییەو به پێی پێبازی چۆمسکی قۆناغی 1957 SS شیدە کاتەو و یاسا فریزییەکانی زمانی کوردی دەسنیشان دەکات و تەکنیکی هیلکاریی رستهی ساده و ئالۆز به بواری شیکردنەوی زمانی کوردی دەناسینی. هەر وەها بۆ یە کەم جار یاساکانی ئالۆگۆپوونی ئەرکی راناوہ لکاوەکان به ئالۆگۆپوونی کاتی کار پێشکەش دەکات.

تا دەرچوونی ئەم کتیبە پێزمانە کوردییەکان به زۆری بایەخیان به وشە سازی و دەنگسازی و نژادی وشە دەدا. زۆر به کورتی بابەتی رستهیان دەبرانه وە له ژێر کاریگەریی پێزمانی عەرەبی کارەکانیان ئەنجام دەدا. دواي دەرچوونی ئەم کتیبە زمانەوانانمان به تاییبەتی قوتابییانی خویندنی بالا ئاشنا بوون به پێبازە نوێیەکانی شیکردنەوہی زمانەوانی و کەوتنە شیکردنەوہی زمانی کوردی به پێی ئەم پێبازە نوێیە.

وەک خۆی چاپی دووہمی بی دەسکاری دەخریتە بەر دەست لیکۆلەوہران .

به ئاواتی سەرکەوتن بۆ ھەموو لاییک

پروفیسۆر د. وریا عومەر ئەمین

14 . 2 . 2015

Preface

Sentences have structures that can be represented by Phrase Structure Rules (PSR). These rules are principles of grammar that specify the constituency of syntactic categories . they specify the structures of a language precisely and concisely and express the regularities of the language.

The PSRs can be illustrated by diagrams called Phrase Structure Trees. A (PST) is a formal devise for representing the knowledge that a speaker has about his language i.e they reflect the speakers mental representation of sentences

of the structure of sentences A tree diagram with the syntactic categories at the reveal both the linear and hierarchical structure of phrases and sentences

This book which is entitled (Some Fundamental Rules of Kurdish Syntax Structure), first published in London in 1976. It is first work that deals about Kurdish Language theoretically and comprehensively within Chomskyian SS Model of 1957. It represents for the first time the Kurdish Phrase structure rules of simple and complex sentences. It also deals very briefly about the nature of the function of personal suffixes and how they exchange their function by changing their tenses.

This book Since its inception has become a major source for researchers and those interested in Kurdish grammar.

Professor Dr. Waria Omar Amin
14 -2 - 2015

Key to Kurdish Phonemic Symbols

Consonants

Phonemes	IPA	Phonetic features	as in	Meaning
/ b /	b	voiced bilabial stop	baş	good
/ p /	p	voiceless bilabial stop	pîr	old
/ d /	d	voiced dental stop as	dan	teeth
/ t /	t	voiceless dental stop	to	seed
/ c /	dʒ	voiced alveo- palatal affricate	ciwan	beauty
/ ç /	tʃ	voiceless alveo- palatal affricate	çya	mountain
/ ħ /	ħ	voiceless pharyngeal fricative	ħewt	seven
/ x /	x	voiceless velar fricative	xor	sun
/ ʁ /	ʁ	voiced velar fricative	ʁem	sadness
/ r /	r	voiced alveolar flap	bra	brother
/ ř /	ř	voiced alveolar trill	řûn	clear
/ z /	z	voiced alveo-dental fricative	ziman	tongue
/ j /	ʒ	voiced alveo-palatal fricative	jan	pain
/ s /	s	voiceless alveo-dental fricative	soz	emotion
/ ş /	ʃ	voiceless alveo-palatal fricative	şew	night
/ f /	f	voiceless labio-dental fricative	fênik	cool
/ v /	v	voiced labio-dental fricative	viyan	love
/ q /	q	voiceless uvular stop	quf	mud
/ k /	k	voiceless velar stop	kiç	girl
/ g /	g	voiced velar stop	gurg	wolf
/ l /	l	voiceless velarized lateral	law	young
/ l̥ /	l̥	voiced dental lateral	sal	year
/ m /	m	voiced bilabial nasal	mef	sheep
/ n /	n	voiced dental nasal	no	nine
/ h /	h	voiced velar nasal	heng	bee
/ ' /	ʕ	voiceless pharyngeal fricative	Se'at	hour
/ w /	w	voiced labiovelar rounded glide	wane	lesson
/ y /	j	voiced palato-alveolar glide	yarî	game

Vowels

/ a /	ɑ	low central unrounded, long	ba	wind
/ e /	a	low central unrounded, short	ser	head
/ ê /	ɛ	mid very close front unround long	êş	pain
/ i /	i	high close front unround short	jin	woman
/ î /	i:	high close front unround long	tîn	power
/ u /	u	high open back rounded short	guí	boy
/ û /	u:	high close back round long	dûr	far
/ o /	ɔ	mid open back round short	doí	valley

Abbreviation

adj	Adjective
adv	Adverb
C	Constant
Comp	Complement
DO	Direct Object
IO	Indirect Object
Demn	Demonstrative Adjective
N	Noun
No	Number
NP	Noun Phrase
O	Object
ONP	Object Noun Phrase
PSR	Phrase Structure Rules
PI	Plural
PN	Personal Pronoun
Poss	Possessive
Pro	Pronoun
S	Sentence
SNP	Subject Noun Phrase
unsp	Unspecified Article
V	Verb, Vowel
VP	Verb Phrase
∅	Zero Morpheme
→	rewrite as

INTRODUCTION

The grammarians who dealt with Kurdish language can be classified into two groups. Those who are Kurdish native speakers, who are fully familiar with their language (since they are native speakers), but because of their inadequate Knowledge of the fundemantale laws of the grammatical analysis they couldn't descibe or analyse many aspects of their language or they gave wrong views about them. The other group is the westren scholars and orientalisists who have the necessary linguistic training but they are not sufficiently familiar with Kurdish language. Because of this Kurdish language hasn't been analysed in depth.

In Kurdish, sentence structure has received no attention, grammarians concentrated on word structure only, and because of that many grammatical morphemes which play a different role in different positions, or which occur only within sentence structure to express words relations to one another, have been neglected.

Here I will try to detemine some of these morphemes and their grammatical functions.

Typologically Kurdish language can be classified within SOV agglutinative languages, in which individual grammatical Categories can be easily assigned to morphemes strung together serially in the structure of the word form. (Although past stem is different from present , but still we assume that each is an individual morpheme as a unit and can be easily assigned to them).

In Kurdish two types of morphemes can be recognized, free and bound morphemes. (Free morpheme is one that may constitute a word by itself, a bound morpheme is one that must appear with at least one other morpheme, bound or free).

Morphemes can be divided into roots and affixes. The root is that part of a word which is left when all the affixes have been removed.

A root will more often be free but can be bound, (e.g. The stem of verbs in Kurdish) and they are unlimited in number in language. Affixes are bound morphemes, they are limited in number and they may exhaustively listed.

Affixes can be classified into derivational and inflectional affixes. Derivational affixes are those affixed to form new words. Inflectional affixes are those which change the form of words to match grammatical procedures, or to express its relation to other word in the sentence or phrase.

Chapter One

Kurdish Phrase Structure rules

Chapter one

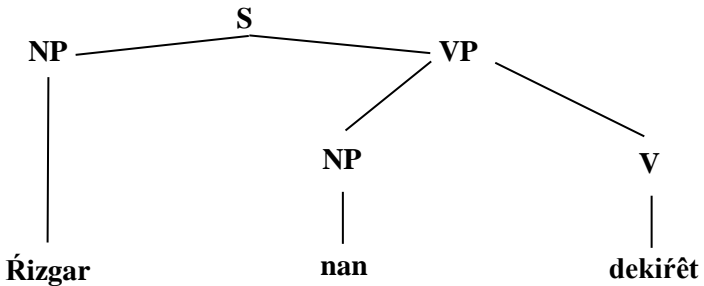
Kurdish Phrase Structure rules

To explain the place and the grammatical roles of inflectional morphemes, it is necessary to explain the syntactic structure of Kurdish language. It is convenient here to say that all elementary sentences of Kurdish consist of three elements in a fixed order, a subject noun phrase, the object noun phrase and the verb. i.e. Kurdish is an (SOV) language. (Later on we shall see that the object noun phrase and the verb of sentences constitute one unit called Verb Phrase).

S → SNP + ONP – V

The simplest example will be :

Řizgar nan dekirêť : Rizgar buys bread



The native speaker of any language is able to form new sentences and to understand utterances he has never heard before, i.e. an infinite number of sentences can be produced or generated by a native speaker. Because of that it is not possible to show all structural possibilities in which all sentences occur.

What can we do is to find out the rules of language which explain this ability and endlessness.

The infinite set of potential sentences must be covered by a finite systems of basic elements (morphemes or word) and combinatory rules.

Sentences are more than strings of words or morphemes which follow one after one. If there is no systematic ordering of its elements, it could never be learned.

In grammatical level morphemes, words, phrases and sentences are recognized. These form a hierarchical structure in which smaller units combined by rules to form successively larger units.

The combining of smaller units to form larger units are not haphazard. There are rules that determine how they combine. These are the syntactic rules of the language. Findig out these rules is part of grammer.

In Kurdish all grammatical sentences (free context) can be traced back to a sequence of three elements. These elements are in a fixed order (Subject – Object – Verb) i.e. Kurdish is an (SOV)

language.

S → SNP – ONP – V

Phrases consist of words and words of morphemes. We will try first to define what groups of morphemes and words can make up the noun phrase in Kurdish.

In Kurdish noun phrase takes various forms , some more complex than others. A noun phrase may consist of a single word (a pronoun, a proper noun...etc.).

Pronouns

In Kurdish a set of six independent personal pronouns is recognized . They show two numbers, singular and plural:

No	person	Pronouns	meaning
Sg.	1	min	I
	2	to	you
	3	aw	he,she, it
Pl.	1	êma	we
	2	êwe	you
	3	ewan	thy

The third person plural pronoun (ewan) is derived from the third person singular by the addition of the plural morpheme /-an/ to the 1st Sg. (ew- he / ewan- they), the others are suppletive. We will use the abbreviation (Pro) for pronoun.

Chapter Two

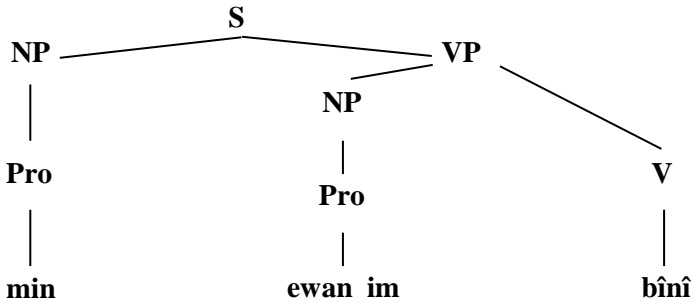
The Rules of Noun Phrase construction

Chapter Two

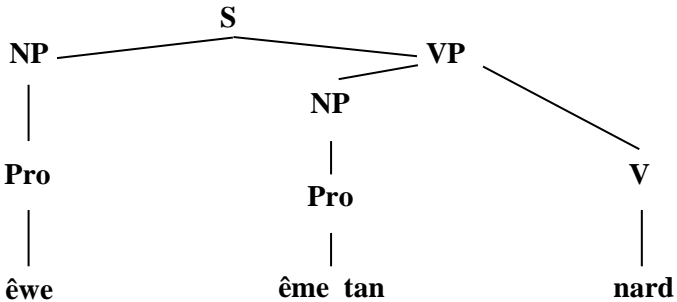
The Rules of Noun Phrase construction

1 – NP → Pro

min ewanim bînî : I saw them



êwe êmetan nard : you (plural) sent us.

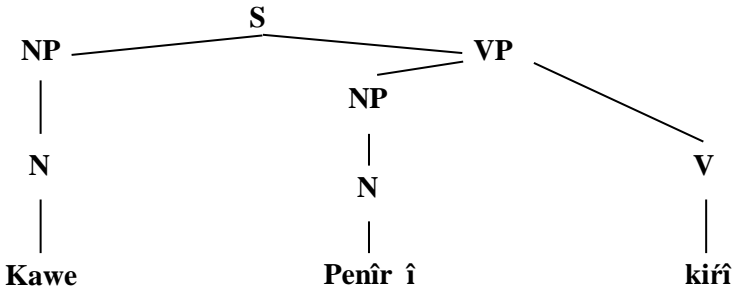


A noun phrase many consist of a noun. Two types of noun can be recognized in Kurdish, common noun (pyaw: man / jin:

woman/ drest: tree....) and proper noun such as (Azad, Kawe,...). Common noun occur with articles (specified and unspecified) and number (singular and plural). We will use noun to refer both to common and to proper noun, it will be abbreviated as (N).

2 – NP → N

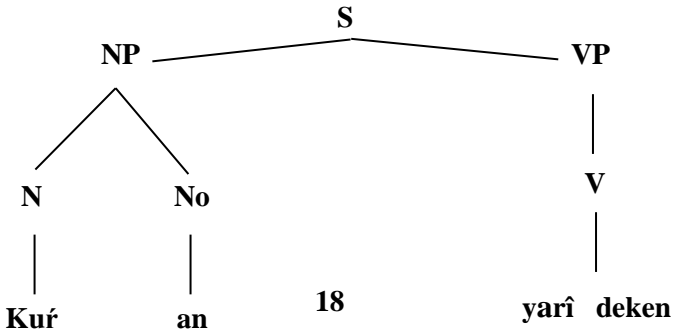
Kawe penîrî kirî : Kawa bought chees



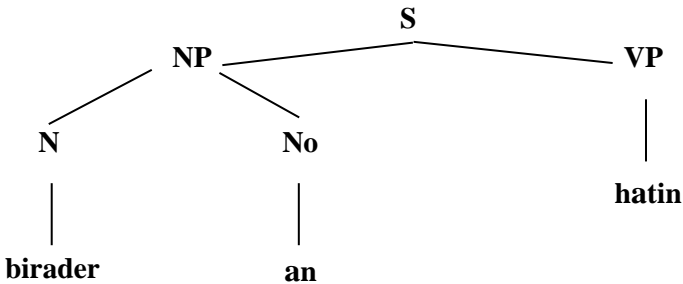
With plural:

3 - NP → N - No

Kurân yarî deken : boys are playing



biraderan hatin : friends came.



hatin: they came, (hat- n). hat, is past stem for the verb (hatin). /n/ is personal ending pronoun for 3rd Pl.

With Articales :

Two types of articales are recognized in Kurdish, specified and unspecified. Specified articles consist of the definite article /eke/ and demonstrative adjectives (eme – this / ewe – that/ emane – these / ewane- those), and the possessive (m– my/ t – your/ î – his/ man– our/ tan- your (Pl) / yan– their) and possessive nouns.

Unspecified articles are used when the noun is not defined and are /êk/ and (hendêk- some: zor- many: çend- some) .

These elements are mobile and occupy different positions in different structures. In some languages, in English for Instance nearly all articles have the same positions in syntactic structure, they always precede the noun phrase, (the boy, a boy, some

clever boys, his small boy... etc), while in Kurdish different articles have different positions in different structures. To avoid confusion, therefore it will be more convenient to distinguish between them by different labels. Another reason for this, that sometimes two articles occur within the same noun phrase.

Kurêkanman : our boys (the boys , ours)

kuî - eke - an - man

kuî : boy

eke : the

an : of plural

man : our

I will use here :

eke: for the definite article /eke/ which means the.

demn: for demonstrative adjectives.

poss: for possessive pronouns.

êk: for the unspecified article /êk/ which means a .

unsp: for the unspecified articles (hendêk, zor, nextêk ...etc)

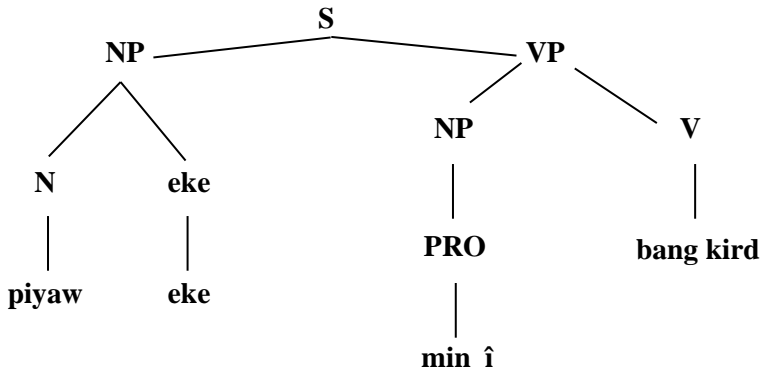
a - The article /-eke/:

As we mentioned before it follows the noun and the (noun and adjective) or adjectives:

4 – NP → N – eke

guîeke: the flower (guî -eke)

guî: flower



pyaweke: the man (pyaw -eke)
 piyaweke minî bang kird : the man called me
 bang kirdin : to call

with plural morpheme :

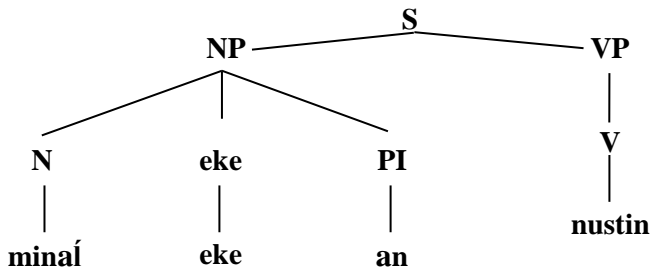
The plural morpheme /-an/ follows the definite article /-eke/:

5 - NP → N -eke -an

kuřekan - the boys

kuř -eke -an

minalekan nustin : The children slept

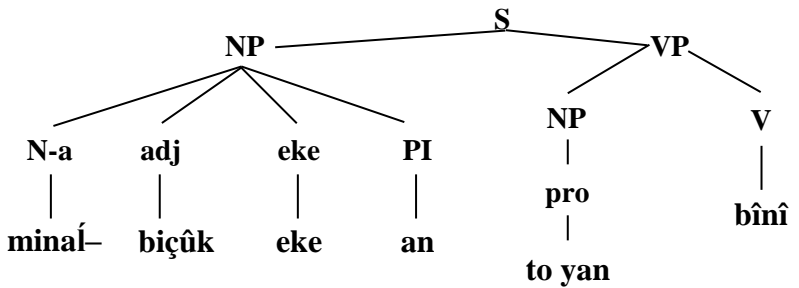


If the NP consists of a noun and an adjective, the specified article /eke/ follow the adjective which is preceded by a noun :

6 – NP → N - e - adj - eke
 gule ciwaneke : the beautiful flower

with plural :

7- NP → N - e - adj - eke -an
 minale biçûk-eke - an : the small children



The suffix /-e -/ which follows the noun, combines nouns with adjective in definite phrases .

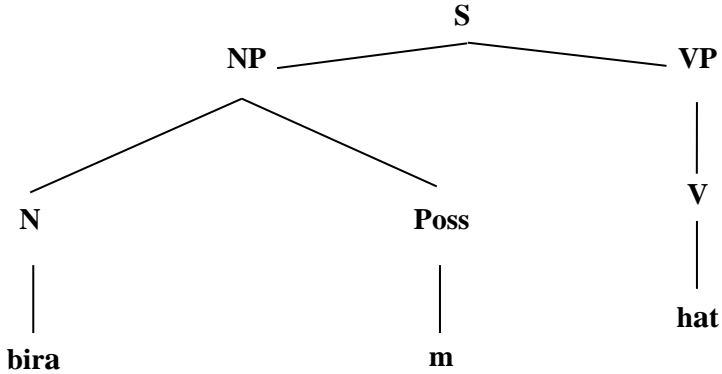
b – Possessive pronouns :

The possessive pronouns in Kurdish are:

no	person	Poss	Meaing	Example	Meaning
Sg	1	m	my	Kitêb-m	My book
	2	t	your	Kitêb-t	your book
	3	î	his,her. its	Kitêb-î	His book
Pl	1	man	our	kiteb- man	our book
	2	tan	your	Kitêb-tan	your book
	3	yan	their	Kitêb-yan	their book

They follow the noun :

8 – NP → N - pose

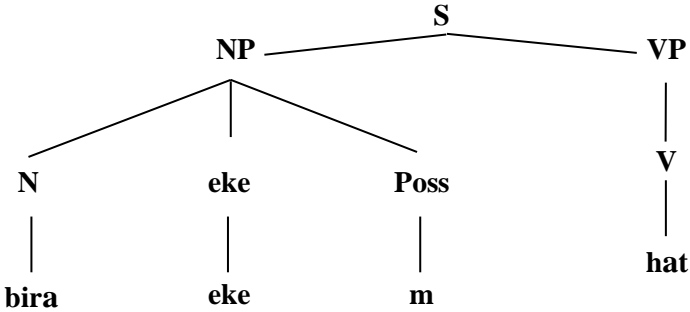


biram : my brother (bira -m)

biram hat : my brother came

9 – NP → N - eke - Poss

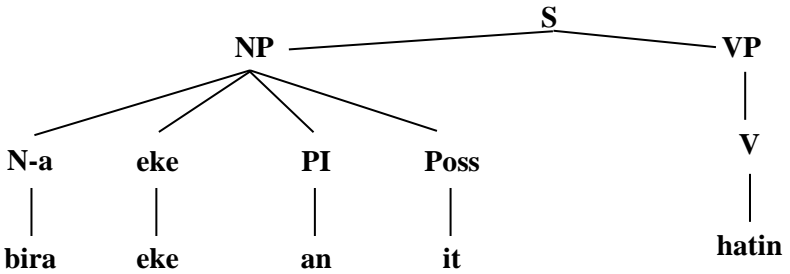
Bira(y)ekem : my (the) brother, or (bira -eke -m).



10 – NP → N -eke -PI -poss

birayekanit hatin : your (Sg) brothers came

(bira - eke - an - it)

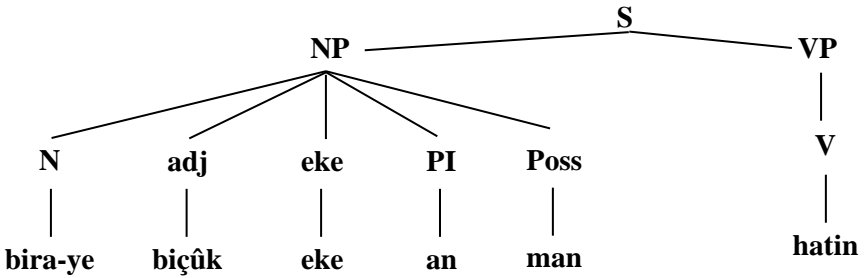


hatin : they cam, (hat) is past stem for the verb (hatin: to came). (in) is ending personal pronoun for 3 rd pl. (they).

11 – NP → N - adj - eke - pl - Poss

bira biçûkekanman : our small brothers

(biçûk – eke – an - man)



The suffix /- e/ which combines noun with adjective occur as /-ye/ after (a, î and ê) and as /-we/ after (û) .

C - with demonstrative adjective :

Demonstrative adjectives in Kurdish are :

eme : this
ewe : that
emane : these
ewane : those

When applied to a noun or a NP the article is split into two parts, the first part precedes the noun phrase as a free form and the second part follows as a suffix.

eme : **em** – N – **e** / **em** kiç – **e** / : this girl

ewe : **ew** – N – **e** / **ew** kiçe cwan – **e** / that beautiful girl.

em kiç - e : this girl

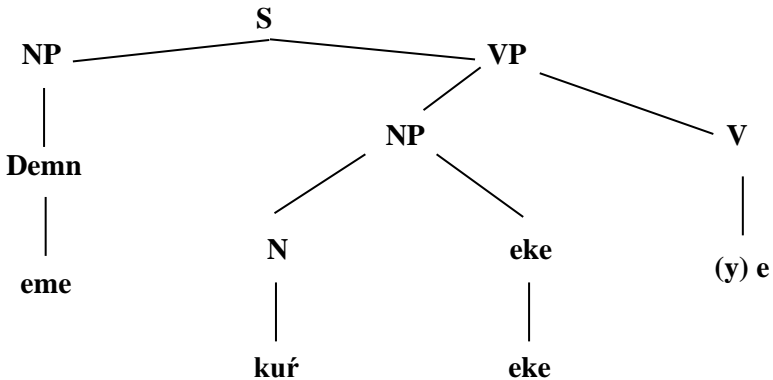
em kiçe ciwan - e : this beautiful girl

em kiçe ciwanan - e : these beautiful girls

The suffix /- e/ which follows the noun in this case, is as the article which combines a noun with adjective in a definite phrase. Demonstrative adjectives occur alone as a Noun Phrase:

eme kuřekeye : this is the boy

12 – NP → Demn

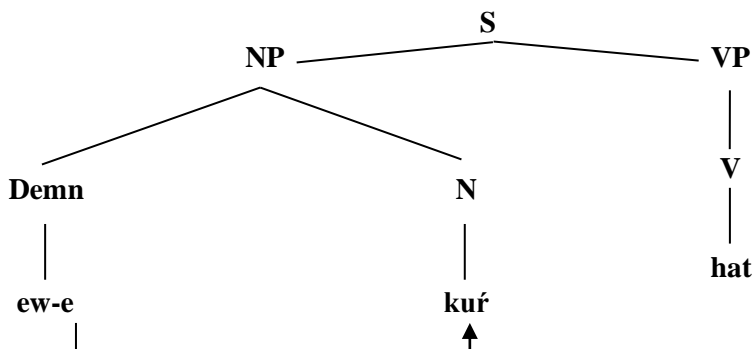


The verb here is a substantive verb means (is).

13- NP → (Demn) - N - (e)

em kuře : this boy

ew kuřane : those boys



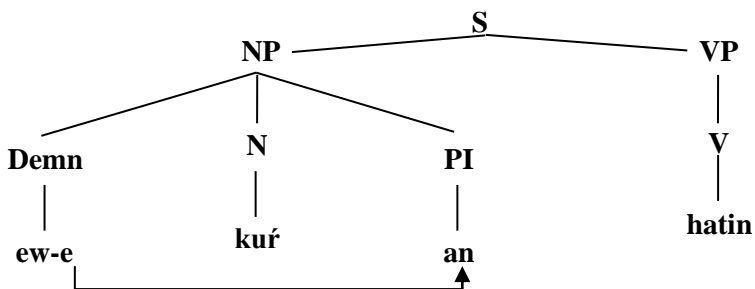
ew kuř hat : that boy came . The suffix /-e / moves to follow the noun.

with plural

14 – NP → (Demn) - Pl -(e)

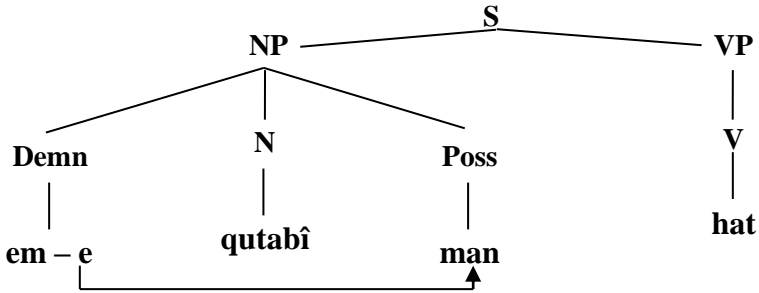
em kuřane hatin : these boys came

(kuř -an -e)



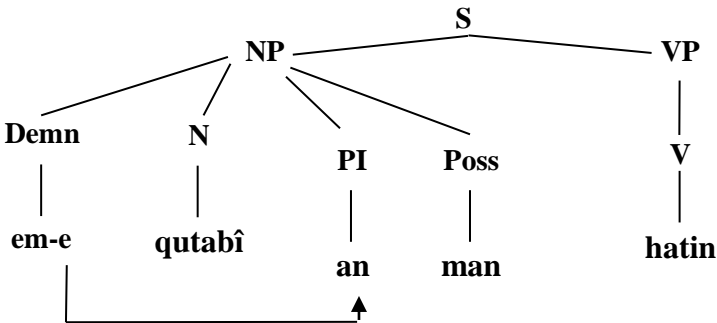
15- NP → (Demn) -N -(e) -Poss

em qutabîyeman hat : this our student came

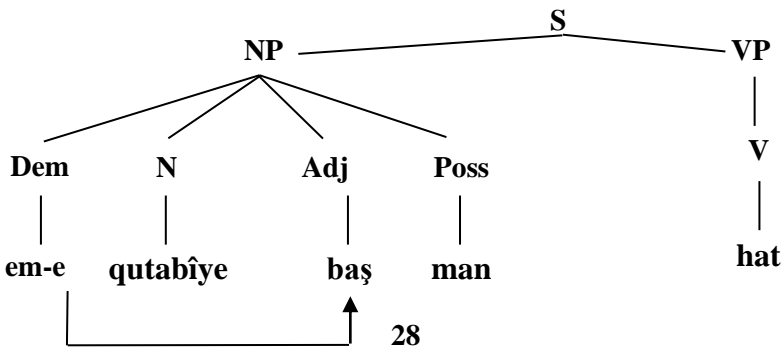


16 – NP → (Demn) - N -Pl -(e) -poss

(em) qutabî –an – (e) - man hatin : these our students came
with adjective



17 – NP → (Demn) -N –e -adj -(e) –poss
 em qutabîye başeman : this our good students



This our good student came.

eme : is the demonstrative adjective (this).

qutabî : student

ye : is the suffix which combines the noun with adjective in a definite phrase, here is (ye) because the noun qutabî ends in vowel.

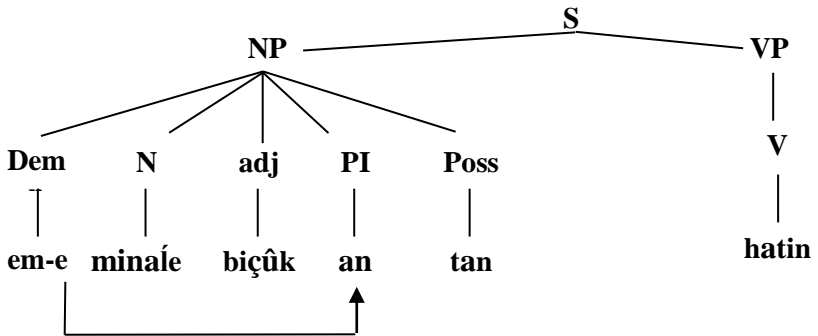
baş : good

e : is the suffix of the demonstrative adjective.

man : our, possessive pronoun of 1 st pl .

18 – NP → (Demn) -N -e - adj -pl -(e) -poss

em minale biçûkanetan : these your (pl) small children.



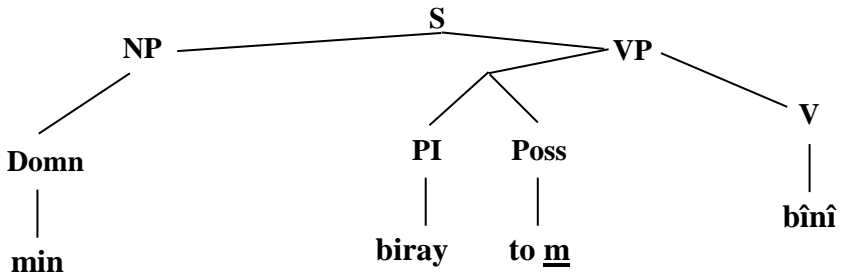
d - with possessive noun (PN)

Possessive noun follow the noun which is defined by it, they combine by the article / î /:

kuî bîram : the son of my brother

19 – NP → PN - î - N

min biray tom bîî : I saw your brother

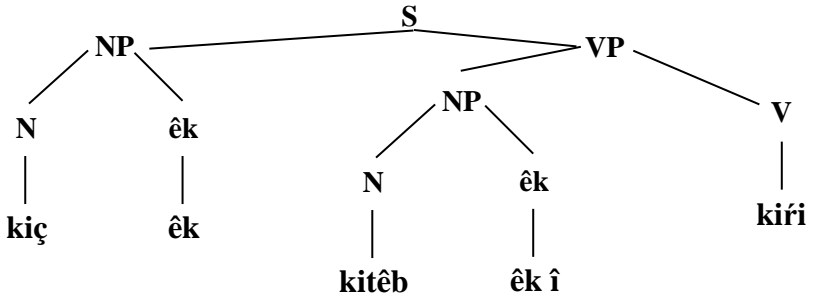


e - The Unspecified article /-êk/

It follow the noun as a suffix:

kuîêk : (a boy / kur - êk)

20 – NP → N - êk



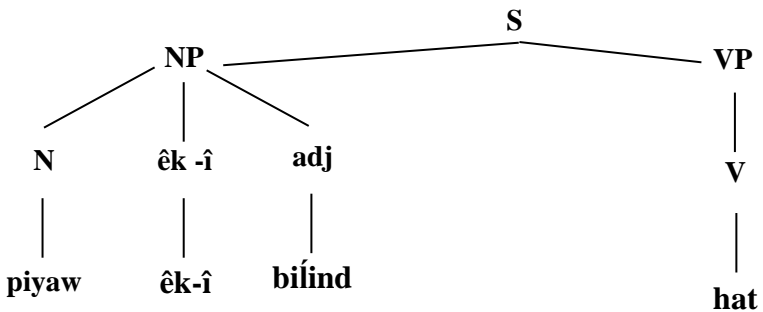
kiçêk kitêbêkî kifî : a girl bought a book.

with adjective

In all cases this article follow the noun, adjective which follow them is combined by the article /-î/:

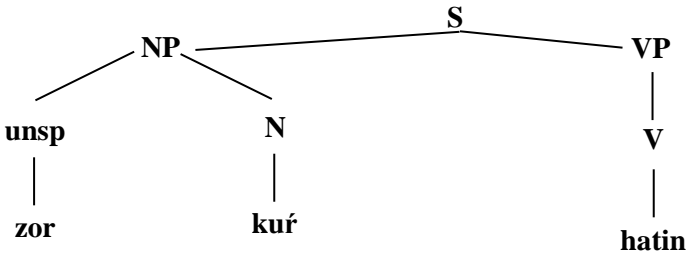
Piyawêk – î bilînd : a tall man

21- NP → N -êk -î -adj



F- Unspecified articles which occur as free forms in Kurdish are: (zor: many, gelêk: much, hendêk: some, çendêk: several, cûtêk: a couple). zor, gelêk, and hendêk occur as one unit preceding the noun:

zor kuř hatin : many boys came



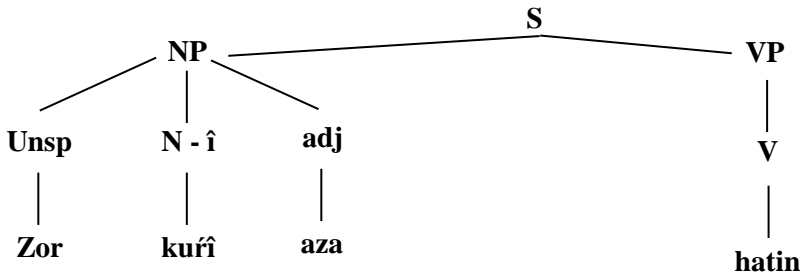
22- NP → unsp – N

With adjective :

23- NP → unsp – N -î adj

zor kuřî aza hatin : many brave boys came

The unspecified noun is combined with the adjective by the article /-î/ with.



(çendêk and cûtêk) sometimes are split into two parts (çend -êk, cût -êk), the first part preceding the noun as free form and the second following as a suffix:

çendêk kurî



som boys

çend kurî - êk

cûtêk kurî



a couple of boys

cûte kurî - êk

Every sentence consists of a finite number of elements, but no longest sentence.

Any sentence containing (X) number of words, for instance, could by the addition of an adjective or an adverb be lengthened to (X + 1) words, and so on. This procedure could be applied an infinite number of times. That is why there is no longest sentence, therefore a language contains an infinite number of sentences.

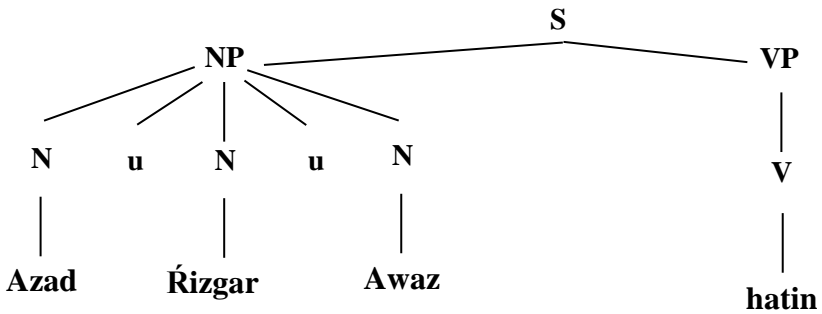
The combining rules which can be applied over and over to produce longer and longer sentences are called (recursive rules). Thus complex structures are made up of elementary simple structures produced by phrase structure rules .

There are two different types of combining rules, (joining rules) and (embedding rules). The difference between them is in the relationship of units that are combined.

In joining rules two units (or more) retain a separate and equal identity and they are combined by means of the coordinating conjunctions (u – w : and yan : or.....).

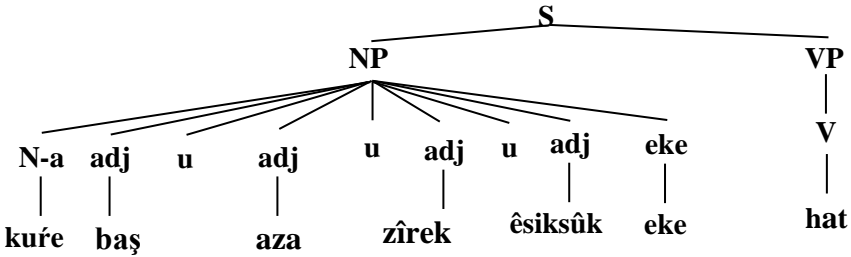
N N + N + N
 adj adj + adj + adj
 NP NP + NP + NP etc

Azad u Řizgar u Awaz u



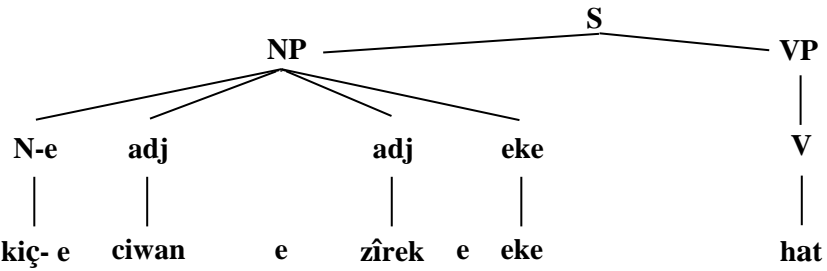
Azad and Rizgar and Awaz and

kuře baş u aza w zîrek u êsiksûkeke hat : the good , brave ,clever and handsome boy came .



If a defined phrase consists of more than one adjective, the adjectives are combined also by the suffix /- e/:

kiçe ciwane zîrekeke hat : the beautiful , clever girl came.



In the embedding rules, unlike joining rules, there is a clear distinction between the units are combined. There are main unit and subordinate units. The combination is governed by embedding rules. We shall deal with theme after knowing what a verb phrase is .

Chapter Three

The Structure of the Verb Phrase

Chapter Three

The Structure of the Verb Phrase

THE VERB

Verb in Kurdish can be classified into transitive and intransitive verbs. Traditionally transitive verb is one which takes an object, and intransitive verb is one which does not take an object.

Infinitive verbal noun in Kurdish invariably ends in (-n). (xward-n : to eat, nust-n : to sleep, bîfîn : to cut ...etc).

The conjugation of transitive and intransitive verb are not the same. It depends on the type of the verb (transitive or intransitive), and on the tense (past or present).

Tenses are formed from the present and past stems and an appropriated ending personal pronoun.

To obtain the past stem, the final consonant (-n) is removed, and the vowel (i) also if precedes :

hestan :	hesta	to stand up
nustin :	nust	to sleep

But we can not generalize a rule to derive the present stem in Kurdish . different rules can be stated with many exceptions and irregularities . (see Mackenzie p : 85) .

xwardin : xo to eat
 mirdin : mir to die
 fifin : fir to fly
 foyiştin : fo to walk ets

Two sets of personal pronoun suffixes are recognized in Kurdish:

1 -

no	person	Poss
Sg	1	m
	2	t
	3	î
Pl	1	man
	2	tan
	3	yan

This set goes only with transitive in past:

min xwardim : I ate
 to xwardit : you ate
 ew xwardî : he ate
 ema xwardiman : we ate
 ewa xwarditan : you(Pl) ate
 ewan xwardiyan : they ate

The quality of vowels depend on their phonological environment, because of that they take different forms in different positions.

The independent pronouns are optional (non basic endocentric).

2 -

no	person	Poss
Sg	1	m
	2	ît
	3	-
Pl	1	în
	2	n
	3	n

This set goes with intransitive verbs in past and transitive and intrasitive in present . For 3rd Sg. ccour nothing in past, (êt -at) ccours in present .

min	nust-m	denûm	dexom
to	nust-ît	denûyt	dexoyt
ew	nust-	denuwêt	dexwat
ême	nust-în	denûyn	dexoyn
êwe	nust-n	denûn	dexom
ewan	nust-n	denûn	dexom

If the present stem of the verb ends in (o) or (e) the ending personal pronoun occurs as (at) for 3rd Sg .

xwardin: to eat, (**xo**) is its present stem, (de- xo -at: dexw- at) is its present tense.

foyiştin: to walk, (**fo**) is its present stem. (deŕw-at) is its present tense.

kirdin: to make, (**ke**) is its present stem, (de- ka –at: dekat) is its present tense.

birdin: to take (de– **be** - at: debat)

dan : to give (de- **de** -at: dedat)

With all other vowels and consonants (- êt) occurs .

çûn: to go, (**ç**) is its present stem, (de– ç -ê: deçê) is its present tense. nustin : (de– nû -ê: denuê)... etc.

The tenses, simple past, imperfect past, past conditional, past participial, perfect indicative, past perfect, perfect subjunctive, perfect conditional, present indicative, present subjunctive and imperative all can be recognized in Kurdish, but for our purpose here it is adequate to mention only the simple tenses giving the details later on.

Verb Phrase

The term verb phrase is applied to the constituent consisting of a verb with complement. Complement means any thing occurs with the verb that makes sentence grammatical and gives intended meaning.

Two different types of complement can be recognized. Simple complements are those that do not contain an embedded sentence, and complex complements are those which do contain an embedded sentence.

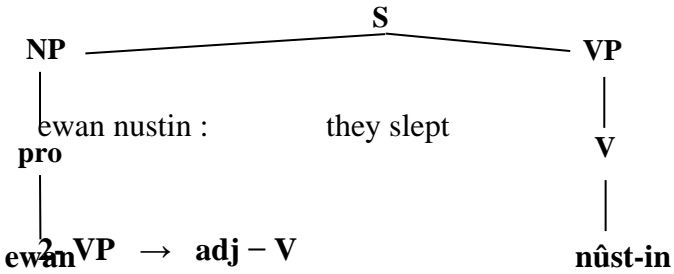
Earlier we mentioned that every sentence in Kurdish consists of three basic elements (SNP– ONP– V), this being the trinary division of sentence. Because of the close relationship between the (ONP) and the (V) of sentences, they are both considered as two elements of the same substructure which is called (VP). Henceforth we will consider sentences consisting of two main parts:

S → NP - VP

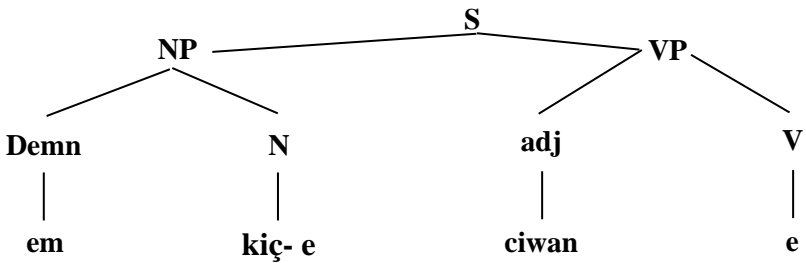
(The relationship between the verb and ONP which is the most common type of all complement, can be illustrated in several ways, for instance in IC analysis both can be substituted for a single verb ...etc)

Verb phrase takes various forms. The simplest form is when it consists of only a verb which consists of the stem of the verb followed by appropriated ending personal pronoun. (SNP and VP are in concord with respect to number, singular and plural)

1- VP → V



em kiçe ciwane : this girl is beautiful



The verb here is a substantive verb.

em -e : this

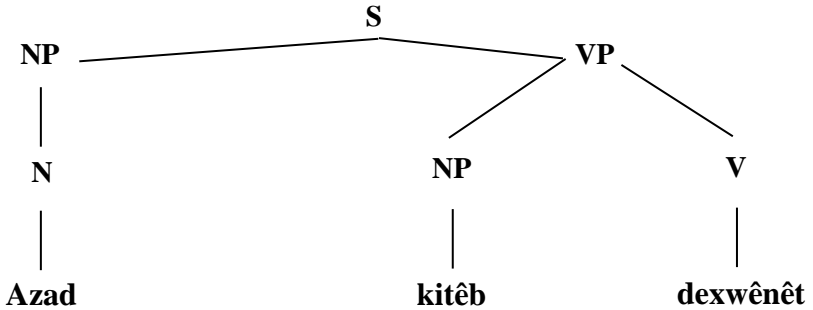
kiçe : girl

ciwan : beautiful

e : is (substantive verb)

3- VP → NP - V

Azad kitêb dexwênêt : Azad is reading a book



dexwênêt: he is reading

de - xwên - êt

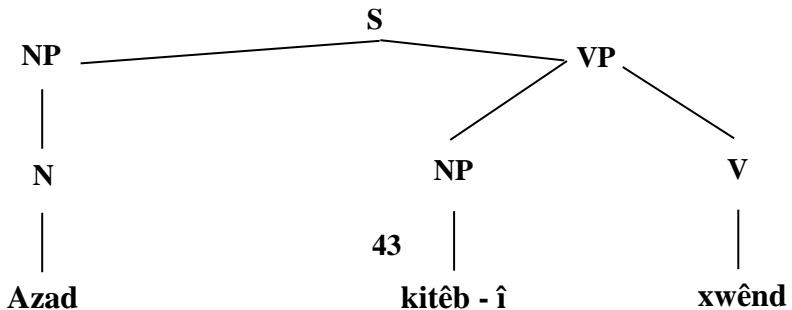
de: prefix of present forming (imperfective marker)

xwên: present stem for the verb (xwêndin: to read).

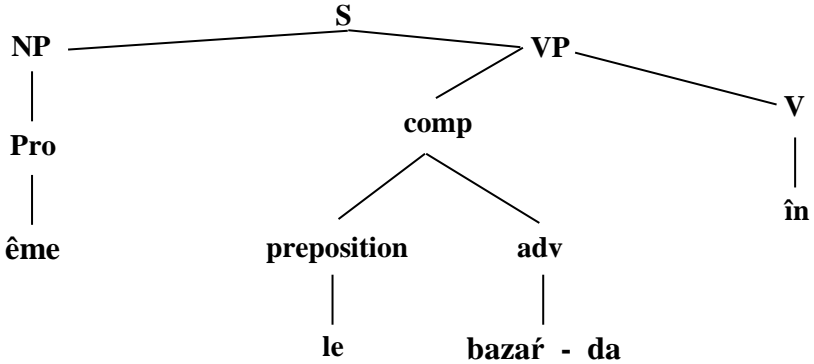
êt: personal ending for 3rd Sg. (he)

With transitive verb in past the personal pronoun suffix moves to follow the object noun phrase.

Azad kitêb - î xwênd : Azad read a book



4- VP → adverb of place - V



The suffix / **-da** / occurs following the adverb of place and time when preceded by preposition.

ême le bazarda-în : we are in shop.

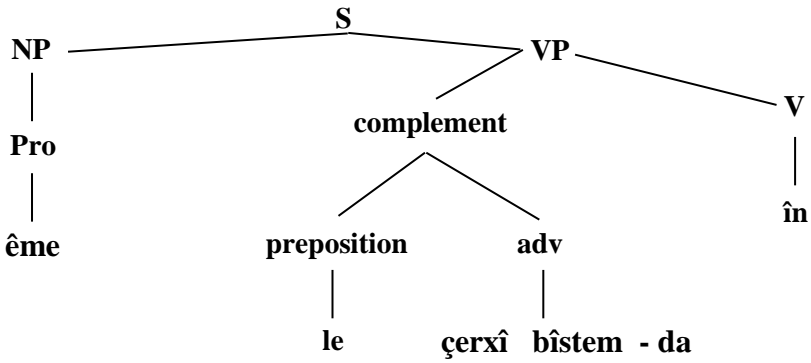
bazarf - da - îh

bazarf : shop

îh: are (we)

5- VP → adverb of place – V

ême le çerxî bîstemdayn : we are in twentieth century



çerxî bîstem : twentieth century

çerx : century

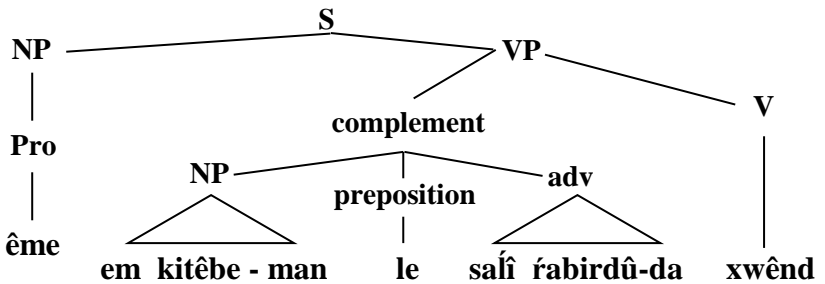
î : **conjunction article**

bîstem : twentieth (to form ordinal numbers in Kurdish, the suffix /- e/ is added to the cardinals)

bîst - em

6- VP → NP – adv - V

ême em kitêbeman le salî fabirdûda xwênd:
we read this book last year.



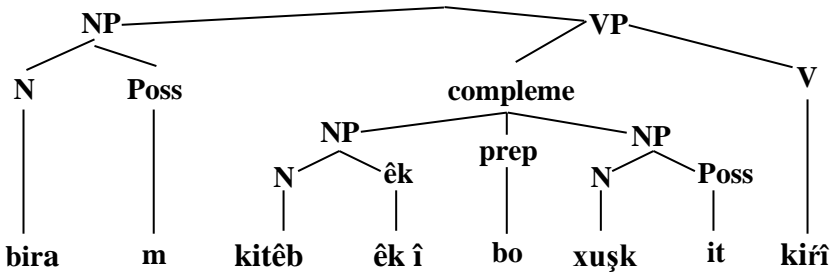
salî fabirdû : previous year

sal' : year
 i' : izafe
 fabirdu' : previous

7 - VP → NP - NP - V

biram kitêbêkî bo xuşkit kifî .

my brother bought a book to your sister.



- Bira - brother
- M - possessive pronoun for 1st Sg. (my) .
- Kitêb - book
- Êk - indefinite article.
- Î - ending personal pronoun for 3rd Sg. (he), here follows the direct object of the sentence.
- Bo - to, for, preposition.
- Xuşk - sister
- Im - possessive pronoun for 1st Sg. (my).
- Kifî - past stem of the verb (kifîn: to buy).

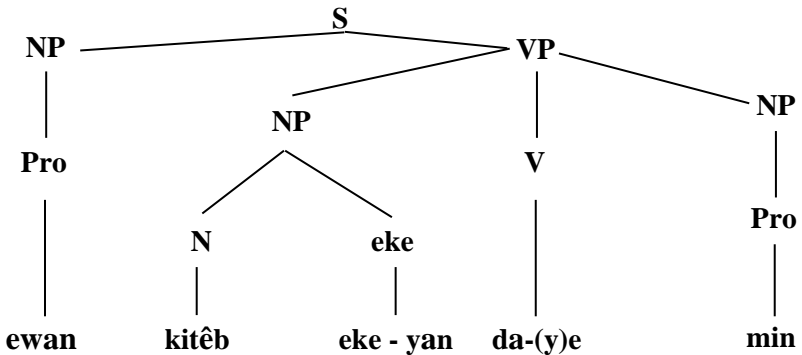
In past the ending personal pronouns always follow the direct object noun phrase, which has a fixed place within syntactic structure. Indirect object has no such fixed place , it may occur following or preceding the direct object noun phrase or following the verb or even preceding the subject noun phrase.

biram bo xuşkit kitêbêkî kifî
 biram kitêbêkî kifî bo xuşkit
bo xuşkit biram kitêbêkî kifî

all are grammatical and acceptabl.

In cases such as dative, which have direction meaning, the indirect object is combined with the verb of the sentence by the means of the suffix /- e/. In this case the indirect object has a fixed place within the sentence and follows the verb.

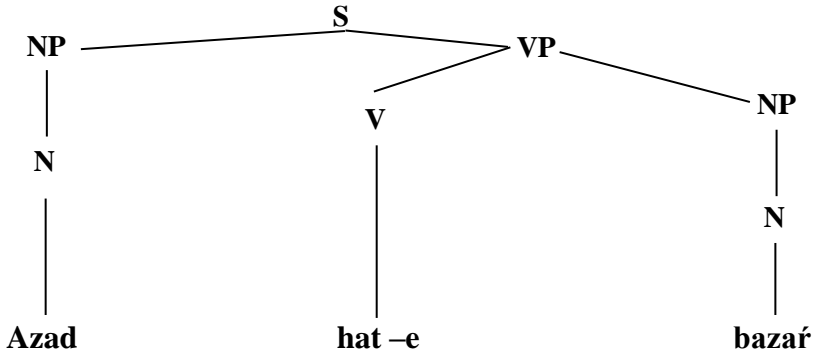
ewan kitêbekeyan daye min : they gave the book to me



The suffix /-e/ occurs as /-ye/ after vowels. without object will be :

ewan dayan-e min : they gave it to me

Azad hat -e bazar : Azad came to market



A preposition is used instead of this suffix. In this case the indirect object is mobile, either following the verb or preceding it.

ewan kitêbekeyan da be min,
ewan kitêbekeyan be min da,
ewan be min kitêbekeyan da,
all are acceptable .

This kind of transformation is not applicable in all cases (e.g. with the verb *xistin* which means, throw down).

Min gulekem xist-e naw gul'daneke: I put the flower in the vase
But not

* min gulekem xist bo naw gul'daneke .

Chapter Four

Complex Sentence

Chapter Four

Complex Sentence

We discussed very briefly various types and the ways of constructing simple forms of NPs and VPs .i.e we knew how simple sentences are constructed in Kurdish.

We also mentioned that two types of combining rules can be recognized in Kurdish, (joining rules and embedding rules).

In joining rules the syntactic rules of a language have an infinite capacity to join constituents and sentences regardless of their complexity. In this case the sentences which are strung together by means of the coordinating conjunctives retain a separate and equal identity, nither is a constituent of the other. This means that the relationship of the two coordinated sentences is not very different from that of two sentences separated by a fullll stop.

Usually sentences are combined in this way when they have nothing in common.

$$S \rightarrow S - S - S \dots$$

Aheng çay lêna **u** Awaz kitêbî xwênd **u** Rîzgar yarîy kird...

Aheng made a tea and Awaz read a book and Rizgar played...

But all elements which are the same and common in the two (or more) coordinated sentences and have the same syntactic funotion are deleted in the second (and third ...) sentences and all elements that are different are retained and these different

elements in both sentences are coordinated. Thus we can coordinate within one sentence unlimited numbers of NPs, VPs, adjectives, nouns and ... etc. In the sentences :

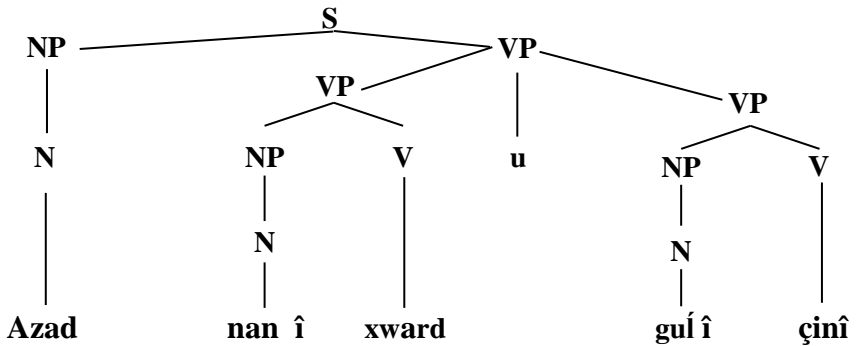
Azad nanî xward : Azad ate bread.

Azad gulî çinî : Azad picked flower.

the subject noun phrases are the same in both sentences. Both sentences could be melted in the structure of one sentence since they have same component parts in common.

Azad nanî xward u gulî çinî.

VP → VP - VP - VP



When the subject noun phrases are different, they are coordinated within one noun phrase:

Azad nanî xward.

Awaz nanî xward.

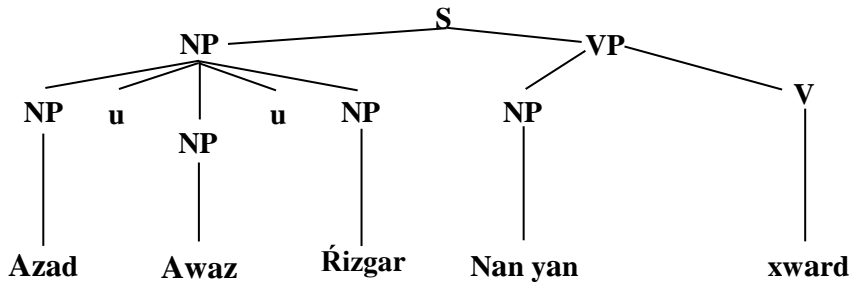
Řizgar nanî xward.

Azad, Awaz and Řizgar in the above sentences are subject noun phrases. They have the same VP, because of that all the three sentences could be melted in the structure of one sentence by the process of (equi Deletion).

Azad u Awaz u Řizgar nanyan xward.

Azad and Awaz and Rizgar ate bread.

NP → NP - NP - NP ...



When the object noun phrases are different:

Azad nanî xward. Azad ate bread.

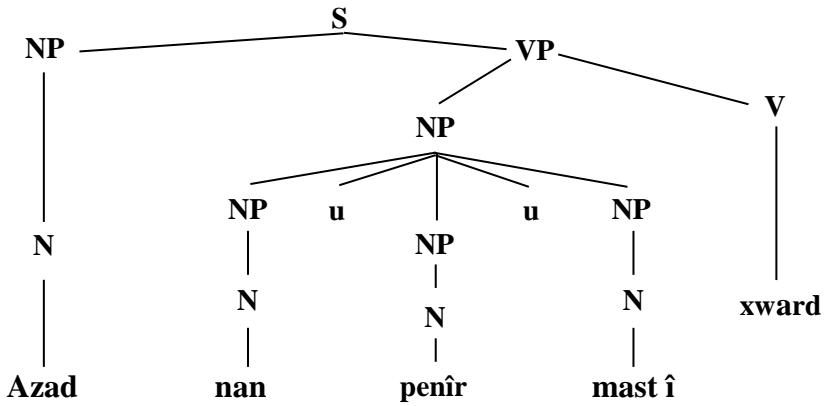
Azad penîrî xward. Azad ate cheese.

Azad mastî xward. Azad ate yogurt.

..... etc

Azad nan u penîr u mastî xward.

Azad ate bread and cheese and yogurt.



When the adjectives are the same such as in:

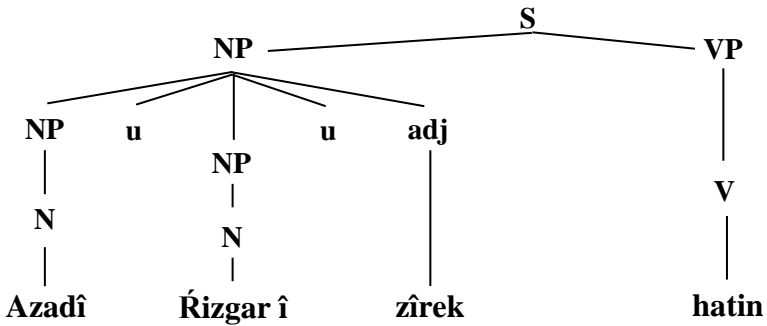
Azadî zîrek hat. clever Azad came.

Řizgarî zîrak hat. clever Rizgar came.

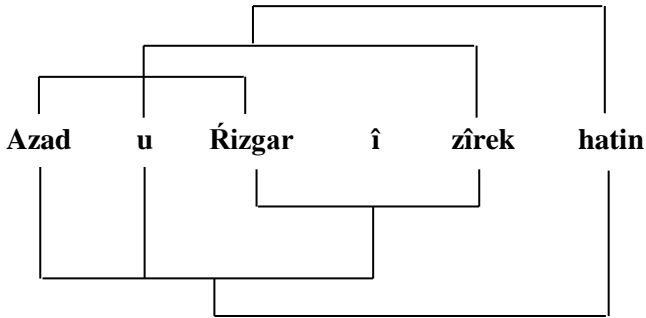
..... etc

Azad u Řizgarî zîrak hatin.

The clever Azad and Rizgar came.



In this case an ambiguity is created. This ambiguity can be explained by the following diagram .



This sentence allows two interpretations.

1- Azad and Rizgar both are (zîrek).

2- (zîrek) qualifies only (Rizgar) .

adj → adj – adj – adj

Some sentences are complex in other ways. One simple sentence functions as a component part of the other, i.e. Instead of the two sentences being joined together as equal or mixed together, one sentence functions as a component part of the other. Sentences taking places of the component parts of the other sentences are called (embedding sentences). The sentences which are embedded are called subordinated clauses and are classified into noun clause, adjective clause, adverb clauseetc. According to their function within the main sentence.

The complex sentence:

kufekey ke dwênê hat îmfo foyişt.

The boy who came yesterday left today .

is basically consists of the two simple sentences :

1- kufeke îmfo foyişt.

The boy left today.

2- kufeke dwênê hat .

The boy came yesterday .

The second sentence is embedded into the first. The embedded sentence as a whole functions as a single adjective , because of that is called adjective clause.

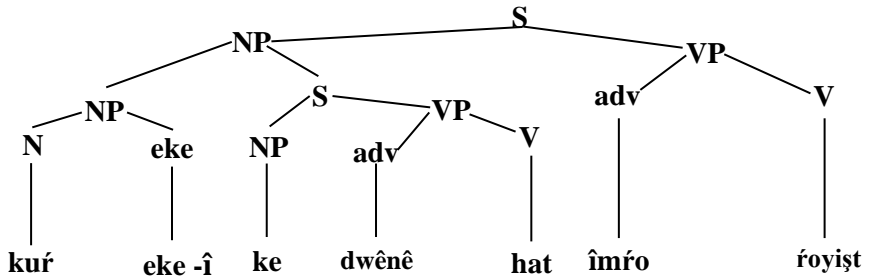
To embed the second sentence into the first, the similar NP is deleted in the second sentence and replaced by the morpheme /-ke/ which means (which, who, whom, that, when), and all together are combined to the NP of the first sentence by the means of the morphem /- î /.

kufeke kufeke dwênê hat îmfo foyişt.

kufeke- **î ke** dwênê hat îmfo foyişt .

The morpheme /-ke/ here is optional and can be deleted, but the deletion of the /-î/ will change the meaning of the sentence, because the syntactic function of the embedded sentence will be changed, (ke) after the morpheme /-î/ means (who, whom, that) . but when it occurs without /-î/ it means (whene, while). In this complex sentence the second sentence is embedded into the subject noun phrase of the first sentence.

NP → NP - S



The joining rules which we mentioned before are applicable to the above and all other embedding rules to generate longer and longer sentences. That is why there is no limit to the length of the sentences, therefore there is no limit to the number of the sentences in a language.

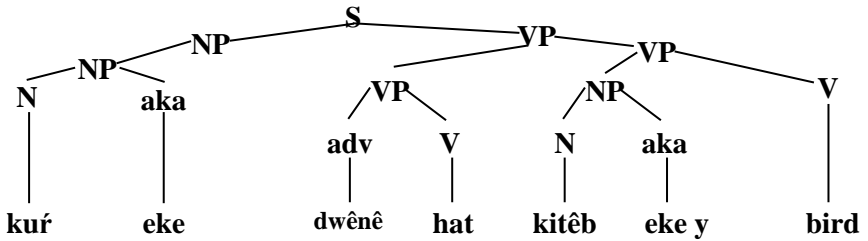
In the sentences :

- 1- kuřeke îmfó foyışt : the boy left today
- 2- kuřeke dwênê hat : the boy came yesterday
- 3- kuřeke kitêbekey bird : the boy took the book

If we assume that the first sentence is the main sentence and the other two sentences are subordinated , to form a complex sentence consisting of all three, first we must apply joining rules to combine all subordinated clauses and then apply embedding rules to embed the combined subordinate clauses into the main sentence.

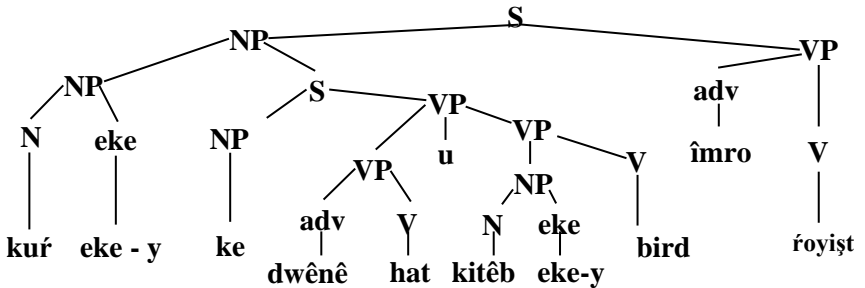
By joining No (2) and No (3)
kuřeke dwênê hat u kitêbekey bird.

the boy came yesterday and took the book.



To embed the combined sentences No (2) and (3) into the main sentence No (1) by applying embedding rules:

kuřeke (kuřeke dwênê hat u kitêbekey bird) îmro foyışt .
 kuřeke – î ke dwênê hat u kitêbekey bird, îmro foyışt .

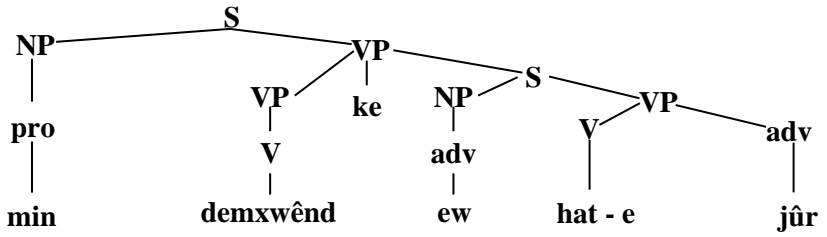


The sentence :

min demxwênd ke ew hate jûr: I was reading when he came in.

Consists of two sentences combined by means of the embedding rules . The embedded sentence, (when he came in) has the same function as a single adverb such as (dwênê: yesterday). This kind of embedding sentence is called adverb clause. The embedded sentence is combined to the VP of the

sentence by means of the morphem /-ke/ which here means (when).



Chapter Five

Personal Pronouns Functions

Chapter Five

Personal Pronouns Functions

In Kurdish the personal ending pronouns occur as a subject and object with the stem of transitive verb in one morphological construction (one word) forming a full sentence.

The way of forming this kind of constructions, and the position of the pronouns and the role they play depend on the tense .

As we mentioned before that two sets of personal pronoun suffixes can be recognized in Kurdish and are:

1- m	t	î
man	tan	yan

They follow the past stem of transitive verbs only to form past tenses

2 - m	ît -	Ø / êt - at
în	n	n

They occur with the past stem of intransitive verb and present stem of transitive and intransitive verbs to express agreement in person and number with the subject of the sentence.. In past for 3rd Sg. ,there is no overt form for the personal pronoun, i.e. It is represented by (Ø - Zero Morpheme) With the present tense (êt - at) occur for 3rd Sg.

The rules of forming this kind of constructions are:

a- If the verb is in present tense, the object pronoun will be the first set (m- t – î – man – tan - yan) and the subject pronoun will be the second set (m – ît – êt – îñ – n – n) . The object pronoun will precede the present stem and follow the prefix /-de/ of present forming.

(1)

(2)

de - object pronoun - present stem - subject pronoun

de- man -nêr –êt. he sends us / he is sending us.

de: prefix of forming present

man: personal ending pronoun for the 1st Sg. here is the object.

nêr: present stem for the verb (nardin) to send.

êt: personal ending pronoun for the 3rd Sg. here is the subject.

But if the verb is in the past tense, then the object pronoun will be Set No. 2 and the subject will be Set No. 1. In this case the object pronoun follows the subject pronoun which follows the past stem of the verb .

(Set 1)

(Set2)

past stem - subject pronoun - object pronoun

nard - tan - îñ: you (Pl) sent us.

nard: past stem of the verb nardin

tan: personal pronoun for the 1st Pl . here is the subject.

îñ: personal ending pronoun for the 1st Pl. here is the object.

Imperfect past and past continuous take the form:

(Set 1)

(set 2)

de - subject pronoun - past stem - object pronoun

de – **m** - nard - **n** : I used to send you, I was sending you.

de - is the prefix indicates continuity (Imperfective Morphem).

m – 1st Sg. pronoun suffix, here is the subject.

nard : past stem of (nardin) to send.

n : personal pronoun suffix for the 2nd . here is the object.

Present simple

min to denêrim	de - t - nêr – m	I send you.
min ew denêrim	de - î - nêr – m	I send him.
min êwe denêrim	de - tan - nêr – m	I send you (pl).
min ewan denêrim	de - yan - nêr - m	I send them
to min denêrît	de - m - nêr - ît	you send me.
to ew denêrît	de - î - nêr – ît	you send him.
to ême denêrît	de - man - nêr - ît	you send us.
to ewan denêrît	de - yan - nêr – ît	you send them.
ew min denêrêt	de - m -nêr - êt	he sends me.
ew ew denêrêt	de - î - nêr - êt	he sends him.
ew ême denêrêt	de - man - nêr - êt	he sends us.
ew êwe denêrêt	de - tan - nêr - êt	he sends you (pl).
ew ewan denêrêt	de - yan - nêr - êt	he sends them.

ême to denêrin	de - t - nêr - în	we send you.
ême ew denêrin	de - î - nêr - în	we send him.
ême êwe denêrin	de - tan - nêr - în	we send you (pl).
ême ewan denêrin	de - yan - nêr - în	we send them.
êwe min denêrin	de - m - nêr - n	you(Pl) send me.
êwe ew denêrin	de - î - nêr - n	you(Pl) send him.
êwe ême denêrin	de - man - nêr - n	you(Pl)send us.
êwe ewan denêrin them.	de - yan - nêr - n	you(Pl) send
ewan min denêrin	de - m - nêr - n	they send me.
ewan to denêrin	de - t - nêr - n	they send you.
ewan ew denêrin	de - î - nêr - n	they send him.
ewan ême denêrin	de - man - nêr - n	they send us.
ewan êwe denêrin	de - tan - nêr - n	they send you (pl).
ewan ewan denêrin	de - yan - nêr - n	they send them.

Past Simpl

min tom nard	nard - m - ît	I sent you.
min ewim nard	nard - m -	I sent him .
min êwem nard you(pl).	nard - m - n	I sent
min ewanim nard	nard - m - n	I sent them.
to minit nard	nard - t - m	you sent me.
to ewit nard	nard - t -	you sent him.
to êmet nard	nard - t - îm	you sent us.
to ewanit nard them.	nard - t - n	you sent
ew minî nard	nard - î - im (nard-mî)	he sent me
ew toy nard	nard - î - ît (nard- tî)	he sent you
ew ewî nard	nard - î -	he sent him
ew êmey nard	nard - î - îm (nard- îmî)	he sent us
ew êwey nard	nard - î - n (nard-nî)	he sent you (pl)
ew ewanî nard	nard - î - n (nard-nî)	he sent them
ême toman nard	nard - man - ît	we sent you.
ême ewan nard	nard - man -	we sent him.
ême êweman nard	nard - man - n	we sent you (pl).
ême ewanman nard	nard - man - n	we sent them.
êwe mintan nard	nard - tan - m	you (pl) sent me.

êwe ewtan nard	nard - tan -	you (pl) sent him
êwe êmetan nard	nard - tan - în	you (pl) sent us
êwe ewantan nard	nard - tan - n	you (pl) sent them

ewan minyan nard	nard - yan - m	they sent me
ewan toyan nard	nard - yan - ît	they sent you
ewan ewyan nard	nard - yan -	they sent him
ewan êmeyan nard	nard - yan - în	they sent us
ewan êweyan nard	nard - yan - n	they sent you (pl)
ewan ewanyan nard	nard - yan - n	they sent them

Note: When the 3 rd Sg . is the subject , it moves to follow the object pronoun.this happens due to phonological environment .

Past Continous

min tom denard	de - m - nard - ît	I used to send you.
min ewim denard	de - m - nard -	I used to send him.
min êwem denard	de - m - nard - n	I used to send you (pl).
min ewanim denard	de - m - nard - n	I used to send them.
to minit denard me	de - t - nard - m	you used to send me
to ewit denard	de - t - nard -	you used to send him
to êmet denard	de - t - nard - în	you used to send us
to ewanit denard	de - t - nard - n	you used to send them
ew minî denard	de - î - nard - im	he used send me.

ew toy denard	de - î - nard – ît	he used send you.
ew ewî denard	de - î - nard -	he used send him.
ew êmey denard	de - î - nard - în	he used send us.
ew êwey denard (pl).	de - î - nard - n	he used send you
ew ewanî denard	de - î - nard - n	he used send them.

ême toman denard you.	de - man – nard - ît	we used to send
ême ewman denard him.	de - man – nard -	we used to send
ême ewman denard you(pl).	de- man – nard - n	we used to send
ême ewanman denard them.	de- man – nard - n	we used to send

êwe mintan denard	de – tan - nard –m	you(pl) used to send me.
êwe ewtan denard	de – tan - nard –	you used to send him.
êwe êmetan denard	de – tan - nard – în	you used to send us.
êwe ewantan denard	de – tan - nard – n	you used to send them.

ewan minyan denard	de – yan - nard - m	they used to send me.
ewan toyan denard	de – yan - nard – ît	they used to send you.
ewan ewyan denard him.	de – yan - nard -	they used to send

ewan êmeyan denard de – **yan-** nard – **în** they used to send us.

ewan êweyan denard de – **yan-** nard - **n** they used to send you(pl).

ewan ewanyan denard de – **yan-** nard – **n** they used to send them.

From the above It is concluded that with the past stem set No (1) functions as a subject and set No (2) as an object. With the present stem set No (2) functions as a subject and set No (1) as an object .

	Set No (1)	Set No 2
Past	subject	Object
Present	Object	subject

Same thing with the compound verbs, the personal pronouns set No (1) and No (2) exchange functions when the tense is changed from past to present and visaversa. Set No (1) always follows the (first) prefix it functions as a subject in past. Set No 2 follows the stem of the verb. It functions as an object in the past;

(1)

(2)

prefix - subject proun - past stem - object pronoun

fêr kirdin : to teach

fêrit kirdîn : you taught us

(fêr – t - kird - îñ)

fêrtan kirdin : you taught them

(fêr – tan - kird - n)

And as an object in present:

(1)

(2)

prefix - object pronoun a - present stem - subject pronoun

fêrman deken: they teach us, they are teaching us

(fêr - man de - ke - n)

fêryan dekeyn: we teach them, we are teaching them

(fêr - yan de - ke - în)

With the other tenses :

Past perfect conditional :

(1)

(2)

bi– subject pronoun - past stem - (i or a) - ba - object pronoun - (aye)

bitannardibamaye : if (you (pl) had sent me)

(bi - tan - nard – (i) ba - m - aye)

(bi - tan - nard - (a) - ba - m - aye)

(bi - tan - nard - (a) - ba - m)

present subjunctive :

(1)

(2)

bi - object pronoun - present stem - subject pronoun

bitannêrîn : if (we send you), shall we send you (pl) .

(bi - tan - nêr - în)

perfect indicative tense :

(1)

(2)

past stem - û - subject pronoun - object pronoun

nardûmanin : we have sent them

(nard - û - man - n)

Perfect subjunctive :

(1)

(2)

past stem - bi - subject pronoun - object pronoun

nardibimanît : (If) you have sent us.

(nard - bi - man - ît)

past perfect :

(1)

(2)


past stem - bû - subject pronoun - object pronoun

nardibûmanin : we had send them

(nard - (i) - bû - man - n)

imperative :

(1)

bi - object pronoun - present stem -		C - e	V - O	singular
		C - in	V - n	plural

(2)

Bibîne: See

Bi- bîn - e

Bixo : eat

Bibînin: you(pl) see .

Bi - bîn - n

Bixon

Bi – xo -

The /n/ of imperative for the plural is the ending personal pronoun for the 3rd Pl. in set No (2).

The pronoun in the two sets which indicate the same person do not occur together. In the 3rd person singular and plural (he - they) occur meaning two different persons or different groups.

The exceptions which occur in using these kinds of constructions are due to using them by the speakers of the other Kurdish dialects in which this phenomenon does not exist in such complicated way, because of analogy and hypercorrection , because of the grammatical idiosyncrasies , or because of the phonetic environment and phonological system of Kurdish language ...etc.

The vowels and their quality which occur between the morphemes are predictable, they occur according to the phonetic environment and Kurdish phonological rules.

This phenomenon is linguistically called the ergative case, in which the subject of the intransitive verb becomes the object of the transitive verb.

If the sentence consists of a subject, object and indirect object in which the subject and the indirect object are represented by the ending personal suffixes, the verb usually will be preceded

by the free morpheme, the preposition /bo/ which means (for) or (to).

In this kind of construction the ending personal suffixes which function as a subject and an indirect object take different places within the same structure and each set has a particular function in some cases, and the same set shows the functions of both sets in other cases.

When the direct object occurs , the personal ending suffix which indicates the subject will follow it. The subject in all cases will be the set No (1).

The ending personal pronoun which has the function of an indirect object can follow the past stem. It will be from the set No (2).

kitêbektan bo hênayn : you brought the book to us (pl.)

(kitêbeke - tan) bo (hêna - îñ)

(1) (2)

(direct object - subject pronoun) (bo) (past stem - indirect object)

When the direct object does not occur, then the subject pronoun will follow the preposition /bo/:

botan hênayn : you brought (it) to us.

(bo - tan) (hêna - îñ)

(1)

(2)

(**bo - subject pronoun**) (**past stem - indirect object**)

The personal pronoun which indicates the subject and an indirect object may occur together with the preposition /bo/. In this case the pronoun which indicates the indirect object will be from the set No (1) and precedes the pronoun which indicates the subject, as in:

boyanman hêna : we brought (it) to them .

(bo - **yan** - **man**) hêna.

(1)

(1)

(**bo - indirect object - subject pronoun**) (**past stem**)

(bo - yan - man) (hêna)

The subject and the indirect object occur together with the direct object:

kitêbketim bo hêna : brought the book for you .

(1)

(1)

(**direct object - indirect object - subject pronoun**) (**bo**) (**past stem**)

The pronoun which functions as an indirect object will function as a possessive when the indirect object occurs after the past stem :

(1)

(1)

(2)

(direct object - possessive - subject pronoun) (bo) (past stem – in. object)

kitêbekeyman bo hênayt : we brought you his book
(kitêbeke - î - man) (bo) (hêna - ît)

kitêb : book
eke : the
î : his (the first set has possessive function as well)
man : we (1st Pl. pronoun) here is the subject.
bo : to, for
hêna : past stem of the verb (hênan - brought)
ît : personal pronoun for 2nd Sg . here is an indirect object.

The use of the set No. (1) to function as an indirect object is rare and it is acceptable with some of the personal suffixes only.

With the present stem the set No (1) functions as an indirect object and the set No (2) as a subject.

When the direct object occurs the personal pronoun suffix which indicates the indirect object follows it:

(1)

(2)

(direct object - in .object pronoun) (bo) (de – present stem - subject pronoun)

kitêbeketan bo dehênîn : we will bring the book for you
(kitêbeke - tan bo de - hên - îîn)

kitêbeke	:	the book here is a direct object .
tan	:	2 nd Pl. here is the indirect object.
bo	:	for , to
de	:	prefix of present continuous tense .
hên	:	present stem of the verb (hênan: to bring).
în	:	personal ending pronoun for the 1 st . pl. here is the subject .

Whithout indirect object the personal pronoun suffix which functions as an indirect object follows the preposition /bo/ .

(1)

(2)

(bo– IO pronoun) (de - present stem - subject pronoun)

botan dehênîn: we will bring (it) to you .

(bo – tan) (de – hên – îh)

References

- Bach, E.** (1974) *Syntactic Theory*. Holt, Rinehart.& Winston.
- Bakaev, Ch.** (1973) *Izik Kurdof*. SSR. Moscow.
- Bloomfield, L.** (1933) *Language*. Allen & Unwin..
- Chomsky, N.** (1957) *Syntactic Structure*. Hague. Mouton.
----- (1965) *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax*. Cambridge.
Mass. MIT Press.
- Fromkin, V. & Rodman, R.**(1974) *An Introduction to Language*.
New York.
- Hockett, C.F.** (1958) *A Course in Modern Linguistics*. New York:
Macmillan.
- Gleason, H. A.** (1965) *An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics*.
- Lyons, J.** (1970) *Chomsky* Fontana / Collins. Glasgow.
----- (1971) *Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics*.
Cambridge University Press.
- Mackenzie, D.N.** (1961) *Kurdish Dialect Studies*. Oxford University
Press. London.
- Palmer, F. R.**(1971) *Grammar*. Palican.
- Robins, R. H.** (1971) *General Linguistics – An Introductory Survey*.
Longman. London.

Acknowledgment

Thanks for M.A.(Faisal Ghazi Muhammad) the instructor in the Kurdish Department for drawing all the diagrams for the second edition.

چھ ند پاسایہ کی پنجویں واپرشنٹی
پرستہ لہ زمانہ کی کورڈی وا

وریا عمر امپرت

دانشکای لندن

لندن ۱۹۷۶

Some Fundamental Rules of

KURDISH
SYNTAX
STRUCTURE

Waria Omar Amin

London 1976

SOME FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF

KURDISH SYNTAX STRUCTURE

Dr. Waria Omar Amin



LONDON
1976