A comparative study of NP-Movement (Passivization and Raising) in Kashmiri and English

Farooq Ahmed Sheikh

To explain the superficial structures has always been the main aim of Transformational Generative Grammars in general and of syntactic structures in particular. Passivization and Raising are being explained by proposing an underlying D-structure from which s-structure is obtained by employing the Move-α rules. The present paper is a step towards applying this theory on Kashmiri and simultaneously comparing it with English. Further, this particular paper has brought some new things about Passivization in Kashmiri into lime light. Kashmiri shows a different mechanism for forming passive by which the intransitive verb containing sentences can form Passives which is not possible in case of English.

Keywords*: NP-Movement, Passivization, Raising, Kashmiri,*

1. Introduction

From the earliest stages, in Chomsky (1975), generative syntax has explained the superficial word order in grammatical sentences by positing abstract movement transformations, which take grammatical elements from one position in a phrase marker and move them to another. As current understanding would have it, such transformations reflect some of the computational resources made available to our minds by our genetic make-up, in the form of a universal grammar, which serves as the basic foundation for the actual mental grammars used by individual speakers of their own languages. Once a set of movement transformations is posited, the theory of grammar must then address the question why certain expressions turn out to be ungrammatical which a movement-based theory would seem to predict will be good. Some plausible mechanism or set of mechanisms must be found which will ensure that movement does not 'over-generate' ungrammatical expressions. Hence, syntactic theory since the mid-60s, initiated by Ross (1967), has been devoted in large part to the search for explanatory *constraints* on movement transformations. In the Present Paper the mechanism of NP- Movement in Kashmiri and English is considered, concentrating mainly on the positions vacated by movement: the trace. NP Movement is triggered by passive verbs, the raising verbs and the raising adjectives.

1.1 *Review of Literature*

Omkar N Koul and Kashi Wali (2006) maintain that there are two types of passive constructions in Kashmiri as in Hindi and Punjabi. The regular or standard type and the other is known as capability passive. These two types have similarities as well as differences.
The regular / personal passive have the transitive verb accompanied by the infinitive accompanied with the auxiliary *'yun'* 'to come'. All the inflection for tense and agreement if any are taken by the auxiliary. The following examples are from Omkar N Koul and Kashi Wali (2006).

(1) a. *mohn   chu səli:m-as   parna:va:n*
         Mohan   is   Salim.dat   teach.pr
         Mohan is teaching Salim./Mohan teaches Salim.

     b. *Səli:m chu   yiva:n   parna:vnɨ   mohn-ni   zəriyi.*
         Salim is   come.pass.pr teach.inf.abl Mohan.abl   by
         Salim is being taught by Mohan.

     c. *Mohn-an   lo:y səli:m-as   lo:ri   sə:tʲ*
         Mohan.erg   beat Salim.dat   stick.abl   with
         Mohan beat Salim with a stick.

     d. *səlim-as   a:v   la:ynɨ   lo:ri   sə:tʲ*
         Salim.dat   came.pass   beat.inf   .abl stick.abl   with
         Salim was beaten with a stick.

The capability passives are usually need a negative or interrogative context. The capability passive usually retains the postpositional agent and unlike the regular passive, the agent may be in the dative. This passivization is applicable to both intransitive. The following examples are from Omkar N Koul and Kashi Wali (2006).

(2) a. *təmi-sĩdi   zəriyi a:v nɨ   paknɨ*
         he.gen.abl   by   came.pass neg walk.inf.abl
         He was not able to walk.

     b. *təmi-sɨndi   zəriyi a:v nɨ   bə:th gʲavnɨ*
         him.gen.abl   by   came.pass not   song   sing.inf.abl
         He was not able to sing the song.

     c.   *kita:b   a:yi nɨ   parnɨ*
         book   came.pass neg   read.inf.abl
         The book could not be read.

     d. *ʃi:l-as   a:v nɨ   garɨ   gatshnɨ*
         Shiela.dat   came.pass neg   home   go.inf.abl
         Shiela was not able to go to home.

     e. *ʃi:l-an   hʲok nɨ   garɨ   gətshith*
         shiela.erg   could neg   home   go.cp
         Shiela could not go home

1.2 *What is new in the Present Study?*

In the present Study the researcher has tried to explain NP-Movement that is Passivization and Raising in Kashmiri in the framework of Generative grammar in general and

Government and Binding Theory in Particular. Further, the researcher has tried to compare English and Kashmiri in these respects.

2. Passivization and NP Movement

Passivization is the transformation brought about by NP Movement or Move-α. (Chomsky 1981) For example;

(3)   a.   *rashid-an*   *mo:r*   *saruph*
            Rashid-erg   kill-pst   snake
            'Rashid killed the snake'

       b.   *saruph*   *a:v*   *marnɨ*   *rashid-ni*   *dəs^j*
            snake   was   kill-pst   Rashid-obl   by
            'Snake was killed by Rashid'

(3b) is the passive counterpart of the (1a), and has logically the same meaning as (3a). However, the two sentences are different in there viewpoints. In *(1a)* whose viewpoint is neutral, the speaker describes from the Agent's (*Rashid*) point of view or the patient's ('*saruph*' or 'snake') point of view or the point of view neutral to the agent or the patient. On the other hand, in (3b), the speaker describes the event only in the point of view of the patient.

Passivization and object promotion is possible only with verbs that assign at least two theta roles in case of English. Non-argument NPs after the active verb are irrelevant for the passive:

(4)   a.   *The children talked all night.*
       b.   ** All night was talked by the children.*
       c.   *John dresses this way.*
       d.   **This way is dressed by John.*

But this is not the case with Kashmiri. In Kashmiri the verbs behave differently. The intransitive verbs are used in two ways one as active form and in passive formation another form is added which takes over the function of verb and the semantic content of the main verb forms a noun like form. Let us illustrate this by the following examples from English (4) and Kashmiri (5):

(4)   a.   *Javeed Slept*
       b.   **Slept by javeed*
       c.   *Javeed woke up*
       d.   **Woken up by Javeed*

(5)   a.   *javeed*   *ʃoŋ*
            javeed   sleep-pst
            Javeed slept

b. *shoŋnɨ*   *aːv*   *(javeed-ni dəsʲ)*
    sleep-pst'   was   (by Javeed)
    *Was slept by Javeed

c. *javeed*   *voth*   *(nindri)*
    Javeed   wake.up-pst   (from sleep)

d. *vɔthnɨ*   *aːv*   *(javeed-ni dəsʲ)*
    wake.up-pst-parti   was   (by Javeed)
    *'Was woken up by Javeed'

In all these Kashmiri examples the main verb is passes the verb function to the auxiliary 'aːv' and keeps the semantic content only. The passive in all these sentence consider the de-verbed semantic content as one of the arguments of the function verb 'aːv' and the subject argument goes out of focus. The action itself comes into focus.

2.1 Passivization and Complex predicates in Kashmiri

The complex predicates have an internal argument always filled by a noun or an adjective behaving like a noun in Kashmiri and every complex predicate supports at least one external argument. Therefore, all the complex predicates are capable of forming passives including those which are intransitive in other languages such as English. For example:

(6)   English

    a.   *Javeed bathed*
    b.   **Bathed by Javeed*
    c.   *Javeed talked about him*
    d.   **About him was talked by Javeed*

Kashmiri

(7)   a.   *javeed-an*   *kor*   *sraːn*
             Javeed-erg   do-pst   bath
              'Javeed bathed'

       b.   *sraːn*   *aːv*   *karnɨ*   *(javeen-ni dəsʲ)*
             bath   was   do-pst-part   (by Javeed)
             *'Was bathed by Javeed'

       c.   *javeed-an*   *kər*   *kath*   *təmis*   *mutalik*
             Javeed-erg   do-pst   talk   him/her   about
             'Javeed talked about him/her.'

       d.   *kath*   *aːi*   *karnɨ*   *(javeed-ni dəsʲ)*   *təmis*   *mutalik*
             talk   was-agr   do-pst   (by Javeed)   him/her   about
             'Was talked by Javeed about him/her'

In Kashmiri and many other Indo-Aryan Languages like Hindi, Urdu, Panjabi etc, most of the verbs are in the form of complex predicates. That, in other words, means that they have the internal argument already with them. The complex predicate has a verbal form and a semantic form either as a noun or an adjective. The internal argument position of the verb is already filled and a complex predicate needs only one argument in mono-transitive verbs and only two arguments in case of a di-transitive verb.

2.2 *A general analysis of passives in Kashmiri*

A passive assigns the same theta-roles as the active, to the same positions, except for the external theta role, which is removed. The object then may move into the subject position. How is the following sentence derived?

(8)   *nema:z   a:i   parnɨ   (sa:nʲ dəsʲ)*
        Prayer   was   offer-pst   (by us)

D-structure:
        ___   *ai   parnɨ   nema:z   (sa:nʲ dəsʲ)*.
        ___   was   offer-pst   prayer   (by us)

After NP movement:
        nemaz   a:i   parnɨ   (sanʲ dəsʲ)
        Prayer   was   offered   (by us)

3. NP-movement and Raising

3.1 *Raising in English*

Almost since the beginnings of generative grammar it has been known that there is a distinction between (9a) and (9b).

(9)
            a.   John seemed to leave.

            b.   John tried to leave.

This difference is referred to as a difference between *raising* verbs and *control* verbs. Even though (8a, b) appear to have the same structure, in fact they do not. It can be demonstrated that these sentences must be distinct in the underlying, as is shown by the following sentences with pleonastic (semantically empty) subjects.

(10)   a.   *It seemed that John left.*
       b.   **It tried that John left.*

Control verbs such as *try* cannot be used with expletive subjects since they need to assign a theta role to the subject, and a control verb cannot therefore be separated from its subject by putting it into a separate clause. As *try* and *John* are separated by a clause boundary in (10b) the sentence is ungrammatical.

Raising verbs such as *seem* have no such restriction since they do not assign theta-roles to their subjects. There is then no problem in using '*seem*' with a pleonastic subject, as in (10a). The NP *John* is then analyzed as the subject of the verb *leave* rather than of *seem*. It also means that *John* receives a theta-role from *leave* rather than from *seem*. We get sentence (10a) by *raising* the NP *John* out of the embedded clause to the main clause, hence the term *raising verb*.

Exactly how raising constructions are represented in generative grammar depends on the particular version adopted. In classical Government and Binding approaches, a sentence such as (10a) would have a structure like the one shown in (11).

(11)   *[e [seemed [John to leave]]]*

Speakers have an option to leave the subject in the lower clause (10a) or to raise it to the subject position of the higher clause (10b). In the first case, the subject position in the main clause will be filled by an expletive subject, such as *it* or *there* (plus tensing of the embedded clause), as seen in (12a) below, while in the second case *John* is moved ('raised') from the subject position in the embedded clause to that of the higher clause, leaving a trace (the exact nature of which is irrelevant for the present purposes) behind. This is shown in example (12b).

(12)

        a.   *[It seemed [that [John left]]]*
        b.   *[John seemed [t to leave]]*

Note that the analysis presupposes a bi-clausal structure with the lexical subject, in this case *John*, in the embedded clause. In other words, a sentence such as *John seems to have left* is derived from [*it*] *seemed that John left*.

3.2 *Raising in Kashmiri*
Consider the examples in (13) from Kashmiri:

(13)   a.   *shabir   chu ma:nnɨ   yiva:n   tsu:r   (ləkan hɨndʲ dəsʲ)*
                Shabir   be-pre   consider-pst   thief'   (by people)
                'Shabir is considered a thief (by people)'

       b.   *rashid   chu   ba:sa:n   ginda:n*
                Rashid'   be-pre   seems   play-prog'
                'Rashid seems playing'

       c.   *mɔrdɨ   chu   dafan   yiva:n   karnɨ*
                corpse   be-pre   burry   happen   do
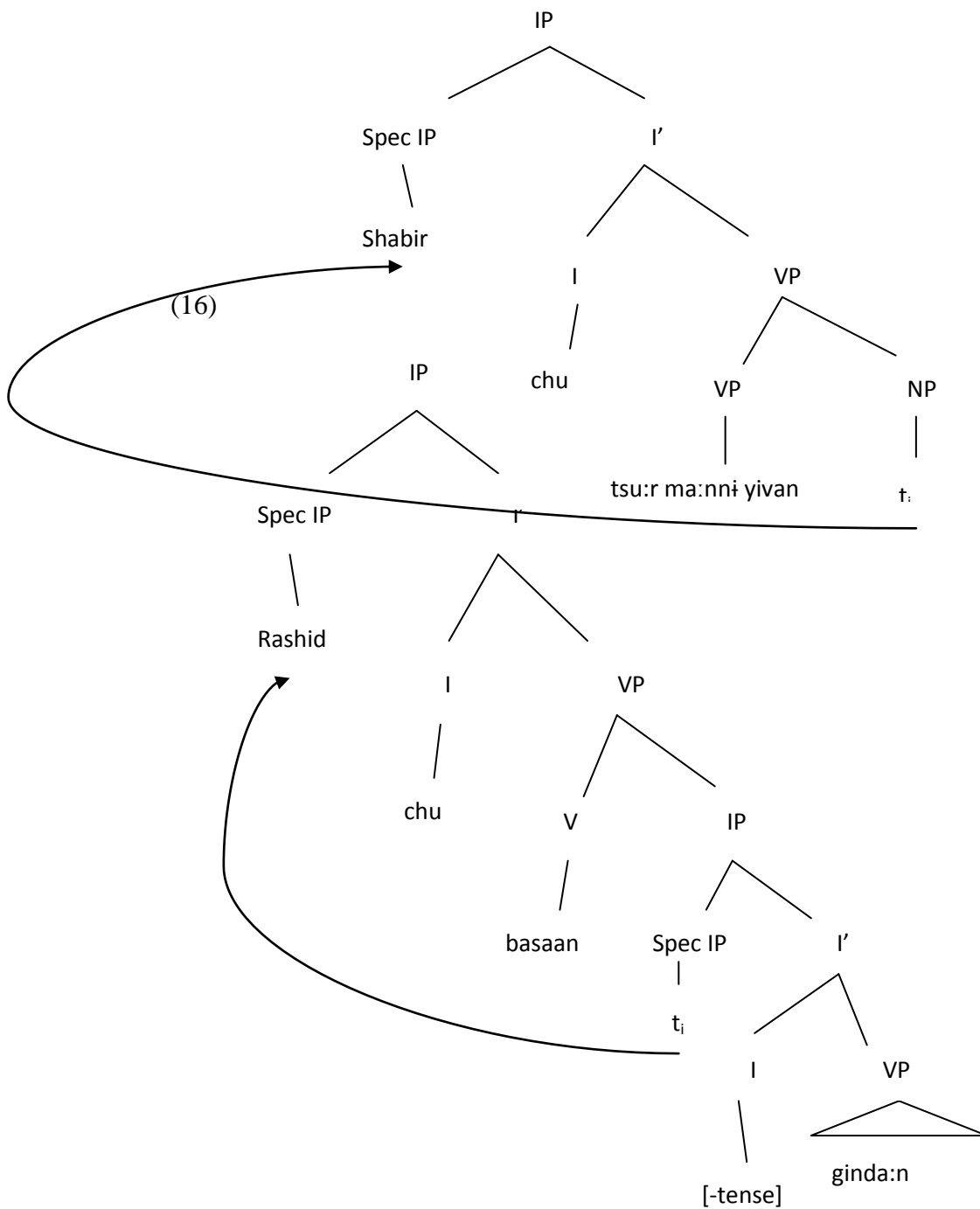   'The corpse is being buried'

(14) a.   *shabir-as   chi   (lǝkh)   ma:na:n   tsu:r*
           Shabir-dat   be-pre (people) consider-pre   thief
           (people) consider Shabir is a thief

     b.   *mɔrd-as   chi   dafan   kara:n*
           corpse   be-pre burry   do-pre
           '(people) bury the corpse'

The comparison of the examples in (13) and (14) reveal that there are certain factors which play their role to determine these structures. The sentences in (12) are in passive voice while as the sentences in (13) are in active voice. But if we look at these structures closely, the word order in both (12) and (13) is same but there voice is different. In the structures in (14) the change of the positions of the NPs from the theta positions are in accordance with NP Movement while as the change of the positions of the NPs in (13) are in accordance with the flexible word order of Kashmiri. The NPs 'Shabiras' and 'mɔrdas' in (13) have the dative case markers and are objects syntactically, thus their position does not make any difference to their function of being objects in these sentences. On the other hand the structures in (13) show a different pattern. The NPs 'Shabir', 'Rashid' and 'mɔrdɨ' have no overt case endings. They are in subject case but they have different theta positions than what are their actual positions in the s-structure of these sentences. To make this argument strong, consider the D-structures of the sentences in (13) in (15).

(15) a.   *chu   tsu:r   ma:nnɨ yiva:n   shabir*
           is   thief   consider-pst   Shabir
           'Shabir is considered a thief'

     b.   *chu   basa:n   Rashid   ginda:n*
           is   seem   Rashid   play-prog
           'Rashid seems playing'

     d.   *chu   dafan   yiva:n   karnɨ   mɔrdɨ*
           is   bury   happen   do   corpse
           'Is being buried the corpse'

The structures shown in (15) are the actual structure of the sentences shown in (13) in accordance with the theta role assignment and theta role positions. The NPs 'shabir', 'rashid' and 'mɔrdɨ' are theta marked clause internally by the passive forms of the verbs 'ma:nnɨ yivan', 'basa:n' and 'dafan karnɨ yiva:n'. In the most natural structures of Kashmiri shown in (13) so called S-structures, the NPs 'shabir', 'rashid' and 'mɔrdɨ' move from their theta positions shown in (15) to the positions shown in (13) under the influence of case checking leaving behind the NP-trace at their respective theta positions. The NP-traces left behind by these NPs have theta positions but have no case. On the other hand their antecedents have case but no theta role. The whole process of movement and associated phenomena can be illustrated by following tree diagrams of these structures.

(14)

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                              IP
                    ┌─────────┴─────────┐
                 Spec IP               I'
                    \           ┌───────┴───────┐
                  Shabir        I              VP
                                |         ┌─────┴─────┐
(16)                           chu       VP          NP
                                          |           |
                 IP                 tsu:r ma:nnɨ yivan  tᵢ
          ┌──────┴──────┐
       Spec IP          I'
          \       ┌─────┴─────┐
        Rashid    I          VP
                  |      ┌────┴────┐
                 chu     V         IP
                         |    ┌─────┴─────┐
                       basaan Spec IP    I'
                                |    ┌────┴────┐
                                tᵢ   I        VP
                                     \      ╱─────╲
                                [-tense]    ginda:n
```

The distinction between the passivisation and NP-raising can be drawn while observing the sentences in (13). The NP-Movement in the sentences (13a) and (13c) is referred to as passive formation and the NP-Movement in (13b) is the process of NP-raising. The NPs move in case of passivisation from one position to another position within the same clause. The case is not so in case of NP-raising. In NP-raising the NPs move from a position in one clause to another position in another clause as shown in case of the tree diagram of (13b).

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Farooq Ahmad Sheikh
Department of Linguistics,
University of Kashmir.
Email: farooqahmad84@gmail.com