

**THE STRUCTURE OF VERB PHRASE IN PERSIAN WITH PARTICULAR  
REFERENCE TO VP INTERNAL SUBJECT HYPOTHESIS**

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This paper investigates the position of subject in Persian (a language spoken in Iran) with particular reference to the VP Internal Subject Hypothesis (ISH). The study is carried out within the framework of Government and Binding as developed in Chomsky (1981, 1986b) and the subsequent works. In the traditional form of the X-bar model, subject is considered to be generated in Spec. of IP where it is assigned nominative case by the tense and agreement features of INFL. This research deals with a proposal which has recently been gaining ground in the literature through a number of studies by Fukui and Speas (1986), Kitagawa (1986), Kuroda (1988), Sportiche (1988) and Koopman and Sportiche (1991).

In their analysis, it is argued that subject is base generated in Spec. of VP and then moves to Spec. of IP at S-structure to receive case. This movement as an instance of an NP-movement is case driven. The present study has analysed Persian data in the light of this hypothesis. The analysis shows that ISH does not receive support from Persian data. It seems that movement of subject is an instance of topicalisation in Persian from Spec. of IP into Spec. of Top P, a position higher than IP according to Split CP Hypothesis. It is shown that A'-movement, not a case driven A-movement is involved. The structure of the sentences in which the movement of subject and wh-movement take place simultaneously shows that the Spec. of Top P is the only potential landing site of subject after movement and adjunction to IP or Spec. of CP cannot be considered as its landing site. The position of PRO in Persian embedded finite clauses shows that the PRO theorem cannot be maintained by generating it in Spec. of VP. I have also proposed as a result that the base generated position of subject at the D-structure level and having a derived or non derived subject at S-structure is a language parameter. Persian is a language whose subject is non derived and is base generated in the Spec. of IP at D-structure level. In this study, I also show that the direct object which is characterized by the feature [+ Specific] is in the Spec. of VP at S-structure level.

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